3
Tokyo
TARAREBA
GIRLS
AKIKO
HIGASHIMURA

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TODAY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

ACT 9 THE JET COASTER WOMEN 003

ACT 10 THE RUNAWAY WOMAN 053

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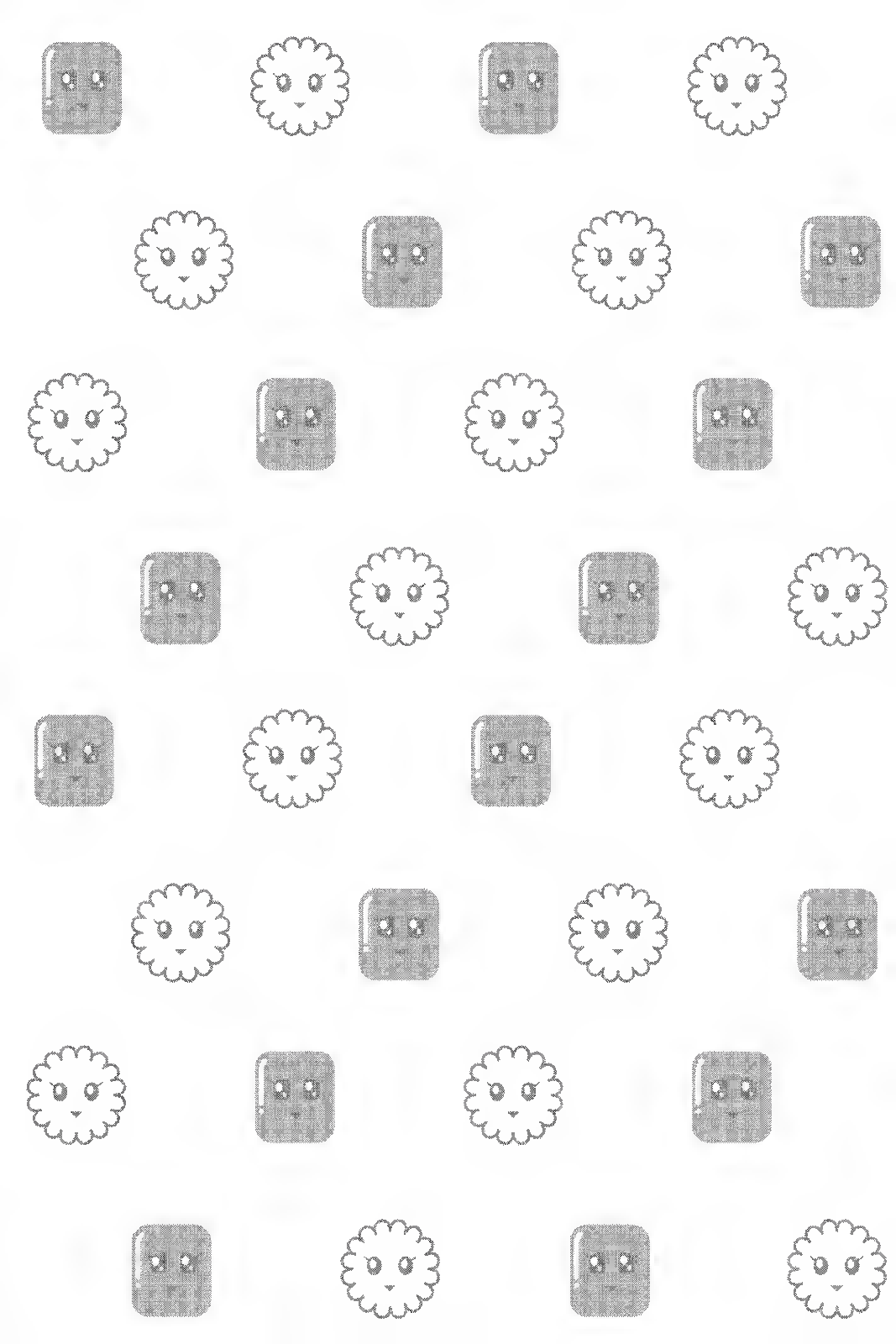
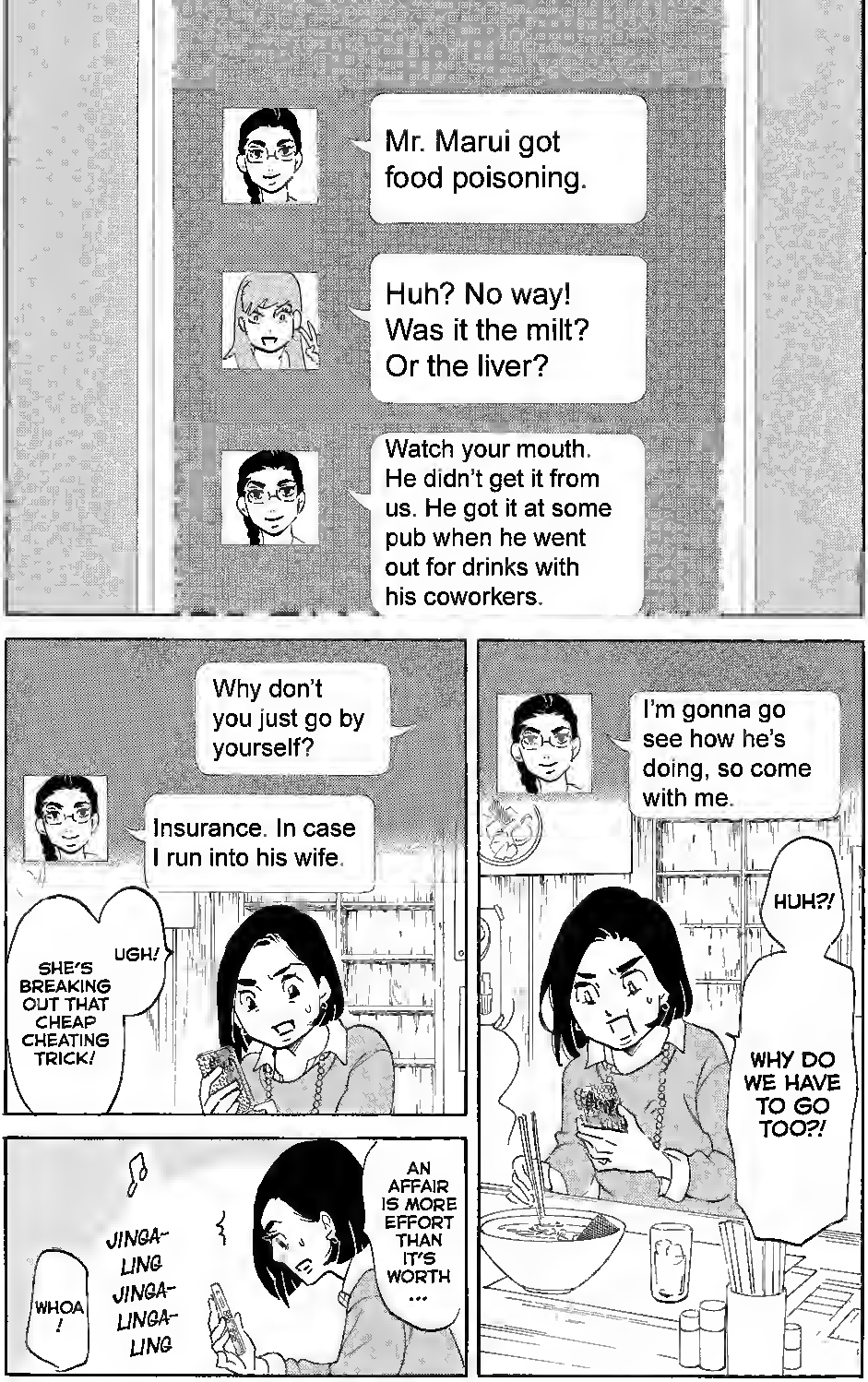
ACT 9
THE JET COASTER WOMEN

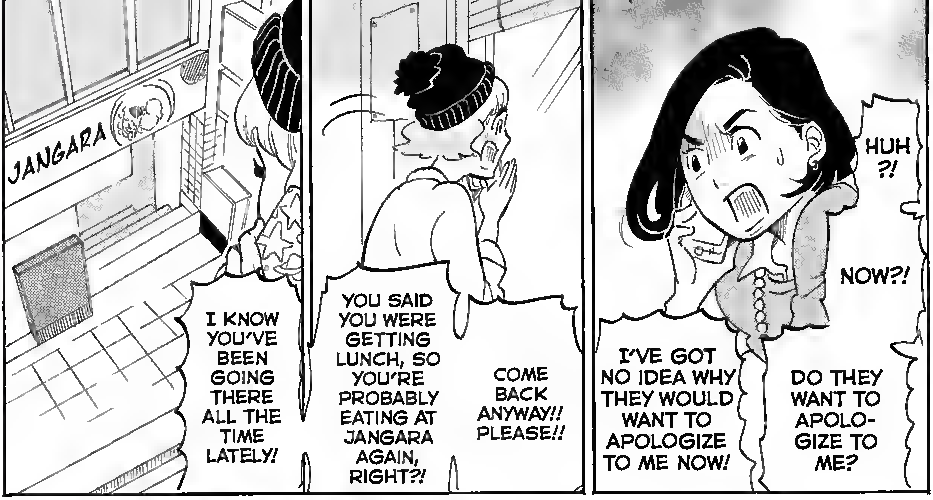


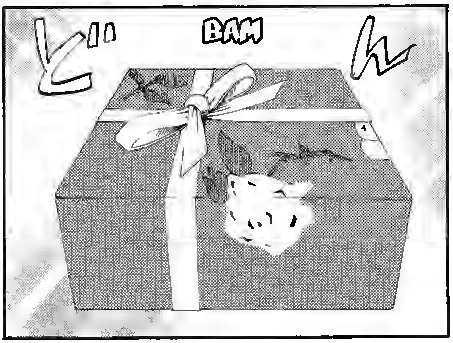
WE DIDN'T CHOOSE TO GET ON THIS RIDE.
HUH?!
THE HOSPI-TAL?

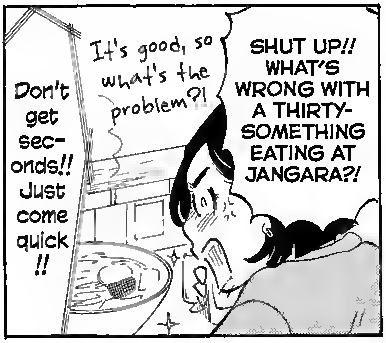

Mr. Marui got food poisoning.
Huh? No way! Was it the milt? Or the liver?
Watch your mouth. He didn't get it from us. He got it at some pub when he went out for drinks with his coworkers.
Why don't you just go by yourself?
Insurance. In case I run into his wife.
UGH!
SHE'S BREAKING OUT THAT CHEAP CHEATING TRICK!
I'm gonna go see how he's doing, so come with me.
HUH?!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO TOO?!
AN AFFAIR IS MORE EFFORT THAN IT'S WORTH ...
JINGA-LING JINGA-LINGA-LING
WHOA!

RINKO! YOU GOTTA COME BACK!

FOR SOME REASON, MR. HAYASAKA IS HERE WITH THE WHOLE GANG THAT DROPPED YOU FROM THAT PROJECT!
WITH A BOX OF SNACKS !!
IT'S IN THAT ROSE WRAPPING PAPER FROM THE GINZA SEMBI-KIYA!


JANGARA
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN GOING THERE ALL THE TIME LATELY!
YOU SAID YOU WERE GETTING LUNCH, SO YOU'RE PROBABLY EATING AT JANGARA AGAIN, RIGHT?!
COME BACK ANYWAY!! PLEASE!!
HUH ?!
NOW?!
I'VE GOT NO IDEA WHY THEY WOULD WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO ME NOW!
DO THEY WANT TO APOLO-GIZE TO ME?


BAM


Don't get sec-onds!! Just come quick !!
It's good, so what's the problem?!
SHUT UP!! WHAT'S WRONG WITH A THIRTY-SOMETHING EATING AT JANGARA?!

I HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU...
RINKO~

...
FRUIT SAND-WICH-ES?
Maybe?
THEY'RE FRUIT SAND-WICHES!!
YOU LIKE THOSE, DON'T YOU?!
I BOUGHT THEM ALL THE TIME BACK IN THE DAY!
YEAH...
YOU DO SEEM TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING FROM TEN YEARS AGO...
SHRRP
SHRRP
SO! RINKO~ HOW'S IT GOING?
BEEN BUSY LATELY? IS YOUR SCHEDULE JAM-PACKED?
...THANKS TO A CERTAIN SOMEONE, MY SCHEDULE IS WIDE OPEN. SINCE YOU DROPPED ME.
You do remember that, right?
OH!
YEAH, I GUESS THAT IS WHAT HAP-PENED.
AC-TUALLY... THE WRITER FOR THAT SERIES IS KIND OF IN THE HOSPITAL NOW...
WHA?!
AGAIN WITH THE HOS-PITALS ?!

I'm sorry, Rinko! Please calm down!!
MY LIFE WOULDO BE A LDT BETTER THAN THIS!!
IF I COULD USE MAGIC, I WOULO HAVE USED IT ON MYSELF A LONG TIME AGO!!
OH, THAT WAS A JOKE?! I THOUGHT YOU THIRTY-SOME-THINGS COULD USE MAGIC AND SUCH!
HEY, THAT WAS A JOKE ...
WHY DID YOU TAKE IT SO SERI-OUSLY?
WE KNOW THAT!! YOU AREN'T THE TYPE!!
I DIDN'T CURSE ANYONE!!
WE'D LIKE YOU TO WRITE THE SCRIPTS FOR THE REMAINING EPISODES!!
LET'S JUST!! GET RIGHT TO BUSI-NESS!!
LIS-TEN!
ズィ
FWIP
WHUMPH
BEG HER!!
NOW, DIREC-TOR! PRODU-CER! MR. TOMITA FROM HAIR AND MAKE-UP!!
WHY IS THE GUY FROM HAIR AND MAKEUP HERE?!
NUM-BERS !!
PLEEEEEASE!

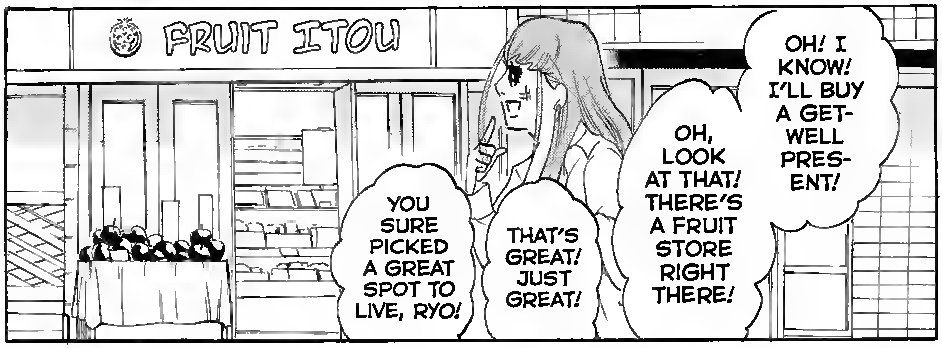
NO, NO, NO!! HE WON'T SAY A WORD!!
YOU KNOW, THE BLONDE GUY.
I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO LIKE THE IDEA.
PLEASE!! PLEASE!! PLEASE!!
L-LISTEN UP! HOW DARE YOU PEOPLE MARCH IN HERE—
BOW
BOW
BOW
WE BEG YOU!!
WHAM
ANY-WAY!!
PLEASE, RINKO! PINCH HIT FOR US AND WRITE THE REST OF THE EPI-SODES...
HOLY CRAP, YOUR EYES!
IN FACT, WE'RE IN NO POSI-TION TO COMPLAIN AT THE MOMENT, SO YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!!
THIS IS THE STUPID-EST THING ...

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D GO GET BARBECUE WITH ME LATER?
WHY ARE YOU GOING TO SEE HER BOY-FRIEND?
KOYUKI'S BOY-FRIEND'S THERE.
YOU'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL? TO SEE WHO?
HUH.
HUH ?!
WIFE? HE'S GOT A WIFE?
SHE WANTS IT TO LOOK LIKE SOME OF HIS FEMALE FRIENDS ARE VISIT-ING HIM TOGETH-ER.
BECAUSE IT'D LOOK SUSPICIOUS IF SHE BUMPED INTO HIS WIFE ALONE.
LET'S GO FOR ROUND TWO!
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT!
YOU NEVER HAVE!
YOU NEVER LISTEN TO ME, RYO!
JEEZ !
EEK!
♪ JINGA-LINGA JING-JINGA
...OVER AND OVER AGAIN?!
HUH?! DIDN'T I TELL YOU HE'S MARRIED ...
OH, DID YOU?
HUH? WAIT, WHO ARE WE TALKING ABOUT AGAIN?

WHAP!!
EEK!
HUH?!
WHO'S CALLIN' ME TODAY? I TOLD 'EM I'M OFF WORK TODAY...
HERE, YOU'VE GOT A CALL!
HOME. HOME. HOME. I'M HOME.
I'M OFF TODAY TOO. YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.
FOR REAL? AH. OKAY. OKAY.
HUH? ONE OF THE SHOOTS WAS CANCELLED?
WAIT, WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO COME BACK THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW?
NARITA ?
HUH? AH! RIGHT NOW?
YES?! HELLO ?!
OH MAN!! MY GIRLFRIEND'S COMING BACK!!
KAORI !!
BEEP
TURN

YOU DIDN'T DROP LIKE AN EARRING OR ANYTHING DID YOU?!
ALL RIGHT!! I'VE GOTTA USE THE LINT ROLLER TO CLEAN UP YOUR HAIR!
SEE YA!!
SHOVE
KER-CHUNK
THINK

S-
SO THIS ...
...IS HOW THEY TREAT THEIR SECONO WOMAN?
THEIR JUST-FOR-FUN WOMEN?
NO ...
THAT'S OKAY.
HE'S MY EX. IT'S NOT LIKE I STILL *AHEM* HIM, AFTER ALL. NOW HE'S JUST MY EX, AND MY FRIEND-WITH-BENEFITS.
YEP. I'M FINE. I'M PERFECTLY FINE.
GT AGGER
GT AGGER
GT AGGER
GT AGGER


FRUIT ITOU
OH! I KNOW! I'LL BUY A GET-WELL PRES-ENT!
OH, LOOK AT THAT! THERE'S A FRUIT STORE RIGHT THERE!
THAT'S GREAT! JUST GREAT!
YOU SURE PICKED A GREAT SPOT TO LIVE, RYO!

HOW CAN YOU HAVE AN APPETITE AGAIN ALREADY WHEN YOU HAD FOOD POISONING?
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT YOUR APPETITE BACK?
HUH?!

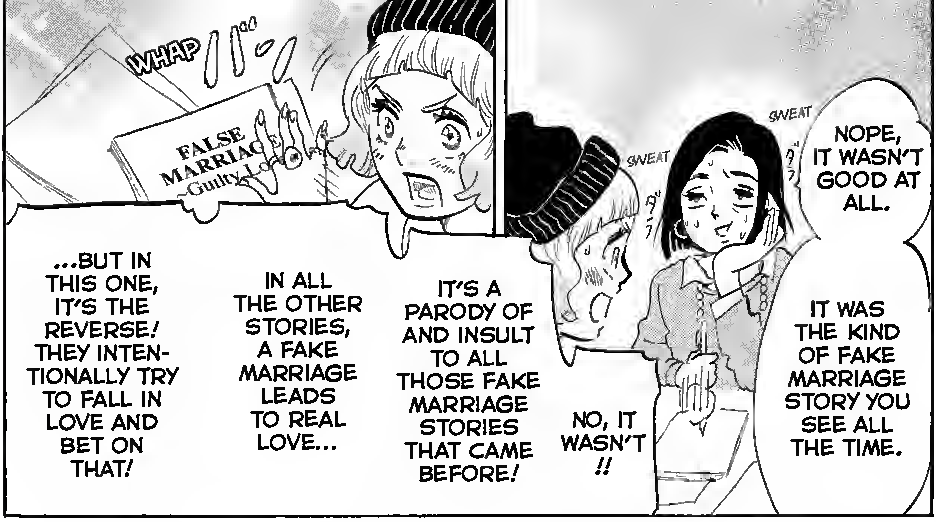
酒処
PUB

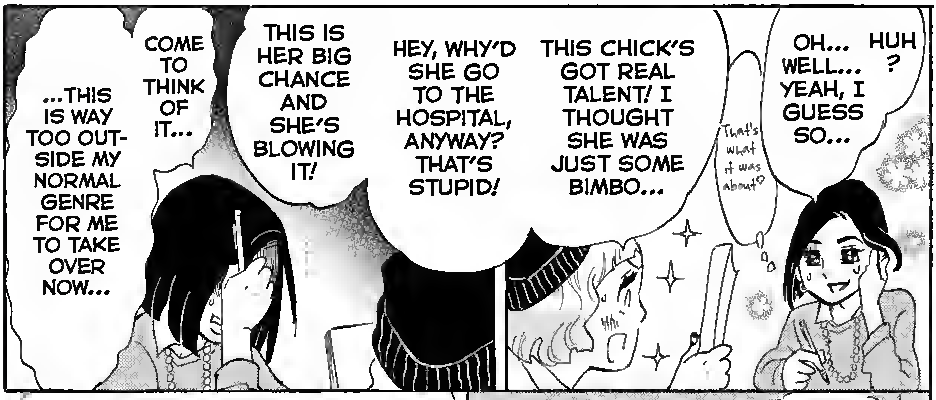
THERE GO MY PLANS, HUH?
SO THEY'RE KEEPING ME HERE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS FOR OBSERVATION...
THE IV THEY GAVE ME CURED MY FOOD POISONING...
...BUT THE BLOOD TESTS CAME BACK PRETTY CRAZY...
YOU KNOW, YOUR WIFE?
HAS SHE VISITED?
...
I'LL BET...
HA HA!
...HOW'S THE FOOD AT THE HOSPITAL?
It tastes like crap!
I haven't eaten a thing!
NO.
SHE HASN'T BEEN HERE.
AH!
TWITCH
ピク
REALLY?
In fact, I haven't told her I'm in the HA hospital. HA...

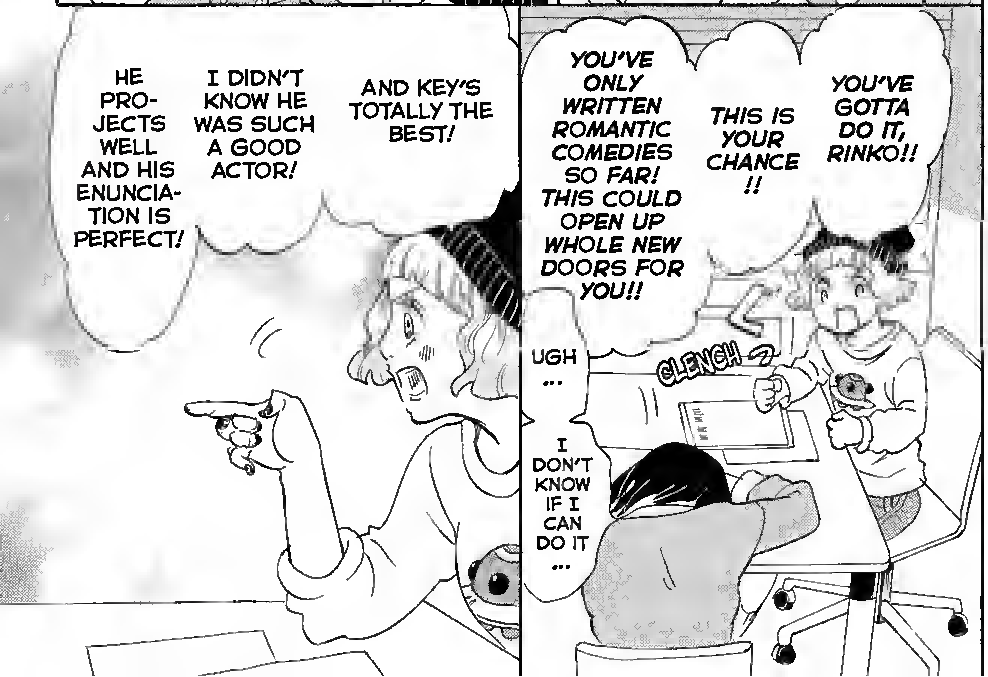
KER-CHUNK
THUMP
BEEP
AH.
THEN IT'S SAFE FOR ME TO VISIT, THEN?
Yep! I'd love to see you!
THUNK
THUNK

Love me for real if you want.
Go ahead.
Stop it!
COOL ... ♡
HE IS SOOO!
ギリ… GRIT
I'm gonna use you to accomplish that goal!
That's my only goal!
But I will win this game and get my reward!
I don't love you!
So you can use me right back if you want!

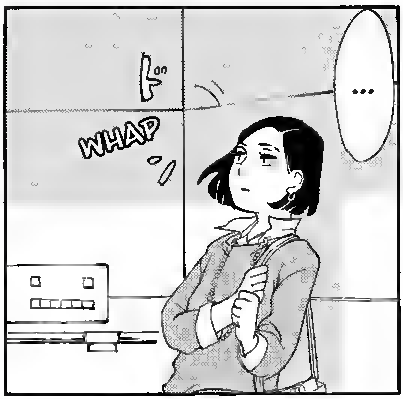
I can love you.
I will make this lie true.
No.
That won't be enough to win this game.
No...
I already love you.
TWINKLE
BBB Online
FALSE MARRIAGE
~ Guilty Love ~
DON'T YOU THINK THAT WAS REALLY GOOD?

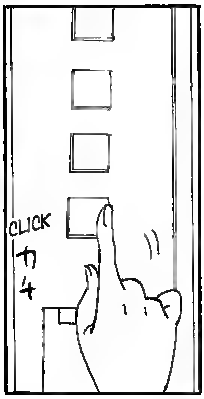

WHAP
FALSE MARRIAGE ~Guilty Love~
...BUT IN THIS ONE, IT'S THE REVERSE! THEY INTENTIONALLY TRY TO FALL IN LOVE AND BET ON THAT!
IN ALL THE OTHER STORIES, A FAKE MARRIAGE LEADS TO REAL LOVE...
IT'S A PARODY OF AND INSULT TO ALL THOSE FAKE MARRIAGE STORIES THAT CAME BEFORE!
NO, IT WASN'T !!
SWEAT
SWEAT
NOPE, IT WASN'T GOOD AT ALL.
IT WAS THE KIND OF FAKE MARRIAGE STORY YOU SEE ALL THE TIME.

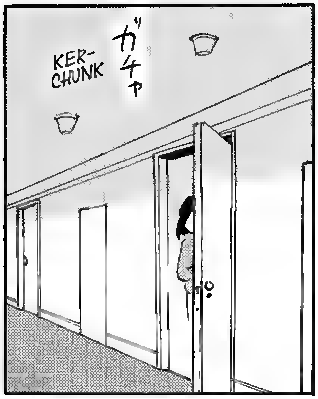

...THIS IS WAY TOO OUTSIDE MY NORMAL GENRE FOR ME TO TAKE OVER NOW...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
THIS IS HER BIG CHANCE AND SHE'S BLOWING IT!
HEY, WHY'D SHE GO TO THE HOSPITAL, ANYWAY? THAT'S STUPID!
THIS CHICK'S GOT REAL TALENT! I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST SOME BIMBO...
That's what it was about?
OH... HUH ? WELL... YEAH, I GUESS SO...

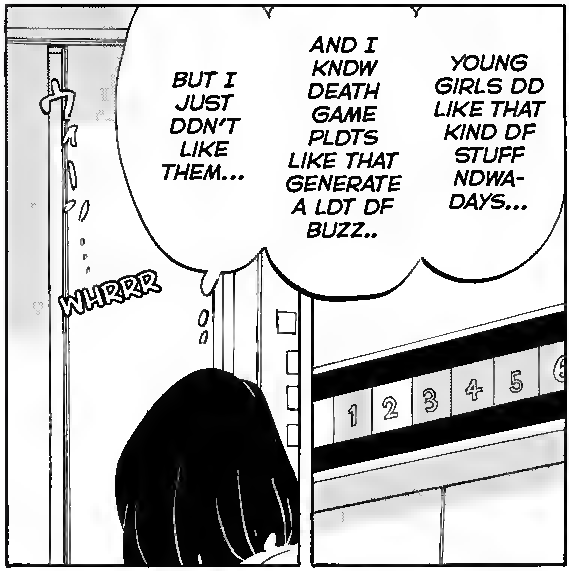

HE PROJECTS WELL AND HIS ENUNCIATION IS PERFECT!
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS SUCH A GOOD ACTOR!
AND KEY'S TOTALLY THE BEST!
YOU'VE ONLY WRITTEN ROMANTIC COMEDIES SO FAR! THIS COULD OPEN UP WHOLE NEW DOORS FOR YOU!!
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE !!
YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT, RINKO!!
UGH ...
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO IT ...
CLENCH

DKAY!
STOMP
WE'LL PICK UP TONIGHT!
STOMP
YOU CAN GO HOME FOR NOW, MAM!
OH, SORRY! I'VE GOTTA RUN A LITTLE ERRAND!
Look at the time!
AND FOR HIS SAKE, WE'VE GOTTA MAKE THIS SERIES A BIG SUC-
CLENCH
HE'S AB-SOLUTELY, POSITIVELY GONNA HIT IT BIG!!


...
WHAP


CLICK

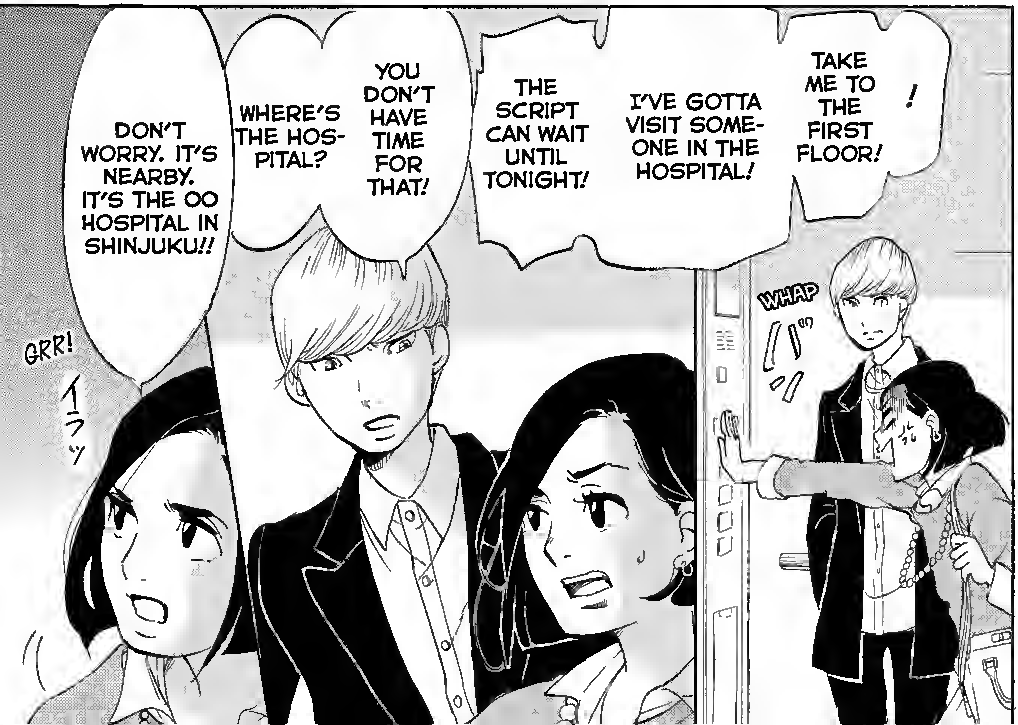

KER-CHUNK


BUT I JUST DDN'T LIKE THEM...
AND I KNDW DEATH GAME PLDTS LIKE THAT GENERATE A LDT DF BUZZ..
YOUNG GIRLS DD LIKE THAT KIND DF STUFF NDWA-DAYS...
WHIRRR
1
2
3
4
5

...
DKAY... SURE... IT WASN'T HALF BAD...
I GUESS...

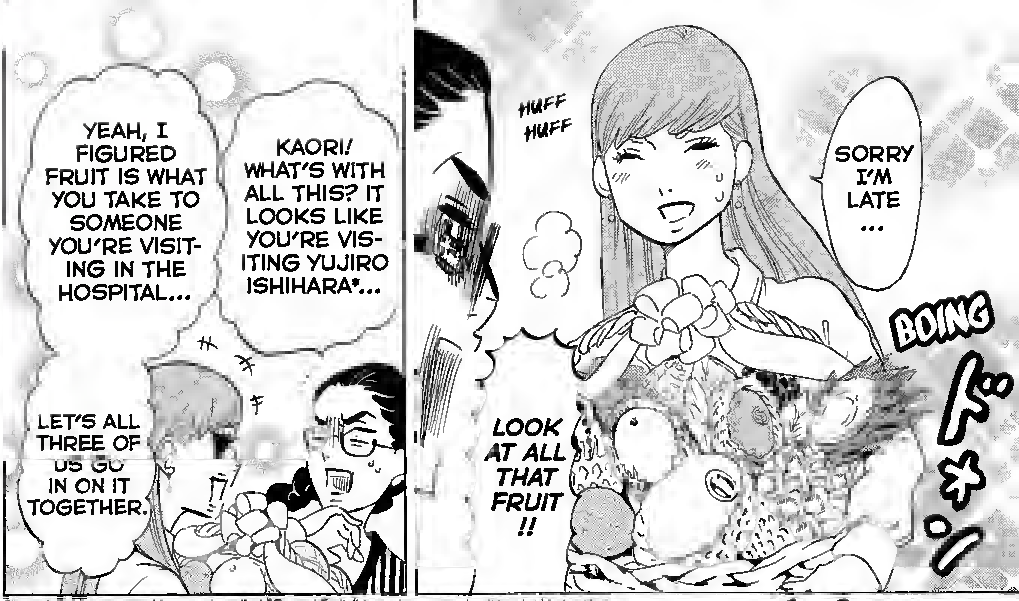
WH-
WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
WHOA!
BUMP
ドン
HMM ?
WHIRRR
ウィーン
YOU'RE GONNA PINCH HIT FOR US, RIGHT?
I HEARD.
I CAME FOR YOUR MEETING.
I DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO FINISH THAT STORY.
WHY WOULD AN ACTOR COME TO THE SCRIPT MEETING?!
HUH?
LET'S GO DISCUSS THE SCRIPT.
I'M FREE UNTIL DARK.
Y-YEAH, I'M GONNA DO IT.
WHAT FLOOR IS YOUR OFFICE ON AGAIN?

IF THIS SERIES TURNED INTO ANOTHER OF YOUR CRUMMY ROMANTIC COMEDIES...
...THERE'D BE NO POINT IN HAVING TAKEN YOU OFF IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
5
PLUS, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. EPISODE THREE STARTS FILMING IN TWO DAYS.


TAKE ME TO THE FIRST FLOOR!
!
I'VE GOTTA VISIT SOME-ONE IN THE HOSPITAL!
THE SCRIPT CAN WAIT UNTIL TONIGHT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT!
WHERE'S THE HOS-PITAL?
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NEARBY. IT'S THE OO HOSPITAL IN SHINJUKU!!
WHAP
GRR!
イラッ

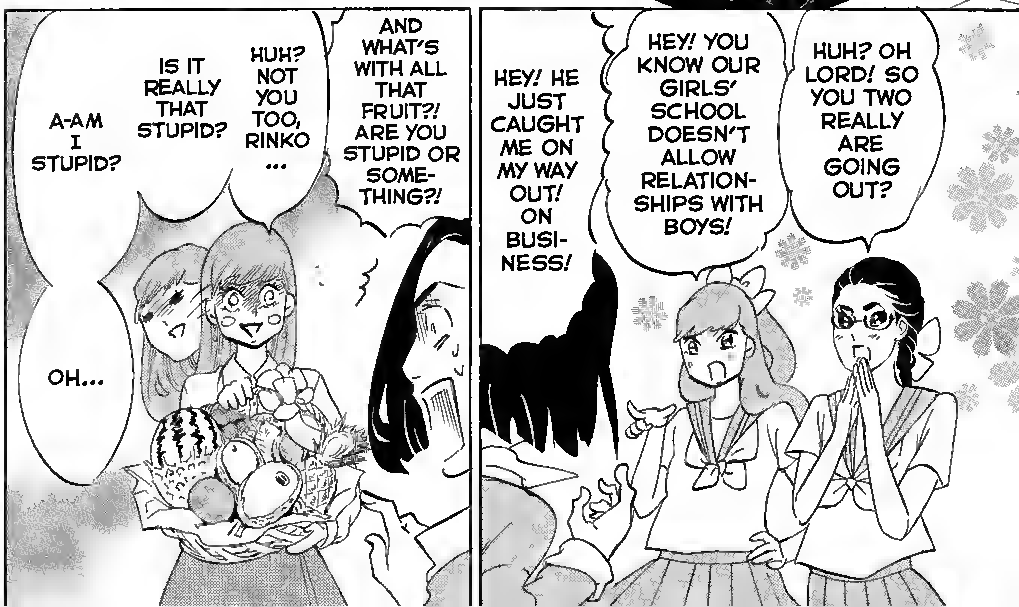
WHAT?
GASP
WHAT'S WITH THE WEIRD FACE?
HUH?!
TWITCH
OH, YOU WANNA COME? WE'RE GOING TO SEE KOYUKI'S BOYFRIEND...YOU KNOW, THAT MR. MARUI WHO COMES TO NONBEE ALL THE TIME... HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL...
I'M GOING.
WE CAN DISCUSS THE SCRIPT ON THE WAY AND IN THE VISITORS' LOUNGE AT THE HOSPITAL.
SO I'M GOING TOO...
HUH ?!
TMP TMP TMP
NO WAY!
YOU'RE REALLY COMING WITH ME?!
ACTUALLY, IT'D BE BETTER IF WE HAD A GUY ALONG!
In case his wife shows up!

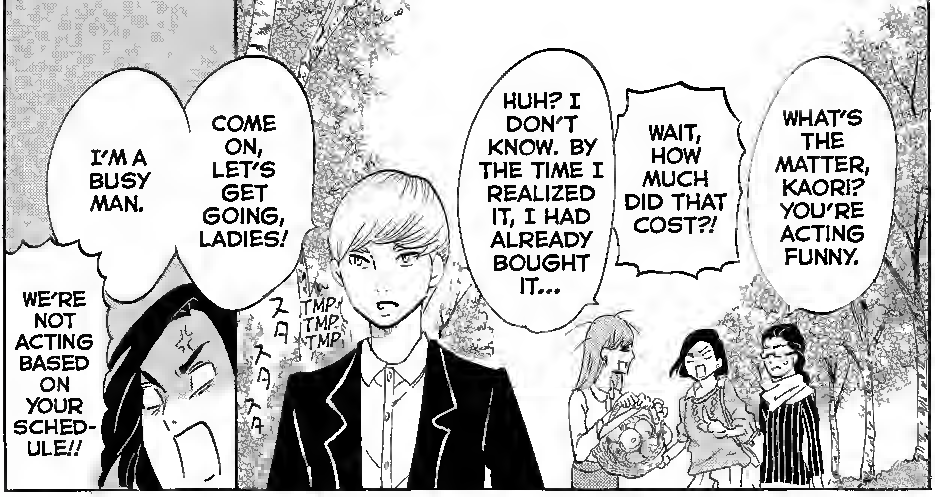
MAN, THEY'RE LATE...
I HOPE I DIDN'T MAKE TOO MUCH...
...
This's heavy..
KOYUKI!
OH!
CLACK CLACK

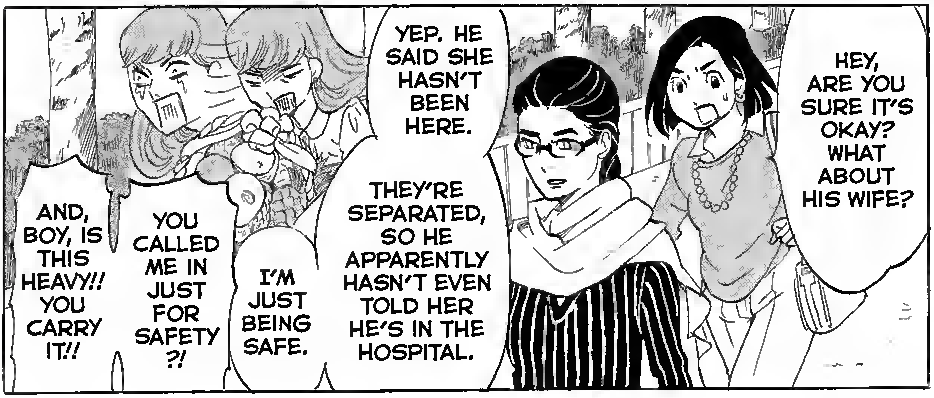

SORRY I'M LATE ...
HUFF HUFF
BOING
LOOK AT ALL THAT FRUIT !!
KAORI! WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS? IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE VISITING YUJIRO ISHIHARA*...
YEAH, I FIGURED FRUIT IS WHAT YOU TAKE TO SOMEONE YOU'RE VISITING IN THE HOSPITAL...
LET'S ALL THREE OF US GO IN ON IT TOGETHER.

*An actor who appeared in a movie called "Crazed Fruit," based on a novel written by his brother

SORRY WE'RE LATE!
WHAT THE HELL?!
HUH ?!
YOU DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE BRINGING ANYONE !!
SCREECH
KER-CHUNK
ARE YOU STUPID?! YOU'RE JUST GONNA BOTHER MR. MARUI WITH ALL THIS! THROW IT AWAY! I MEAN IT!


AND WHAT'S WITH ALL THAT FRUIT?! ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING?!
HUH? NOT YOU TOO, RINKO ...
IS IT REALLY THAT STUPID?
A-AM I STUPID?
OH...
HEY! HE JUST CAUGHT ME ON MY WAY OUT! ON BUSINESS!
HEY! YOU KNOW OUR GIRLS' SCHOOL DOESN'T ALLOW RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOYS!
HUH? OH LORD! SO YOU TWO REALLY ARE GOING OUT?


WE'RE NOT ACTING BASED ON YOUR SCHED-ULE!!
I'M A BUSY MAN.
COME ON, LET'S GET GOING, LADIES!
TMP TMP TMP
HUH? I DON'T KNOW. BY THE TIME I REALIZED IT, I HAD ALREADY BOUGHT IT...
WAIT, HOW MUCH DID THAT COST?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KAORI? YOU'RE ACTING FUNNY.


AND, BOY, IS THIS HEAVY!! YOU CARRY IT!!
YOU CALLED ME IN JUST FOR SAFETY ?!
I'M JUST BEING SAFE.
YEP. HE SAID SHE HASN'T BEEN HERE.
THEY'RE SEPARATED, SO HE APPARENTLY HASN'T EVEN TOLD HER HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL.
HEY, ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY? WHAT ABOUT HIS WIFE?

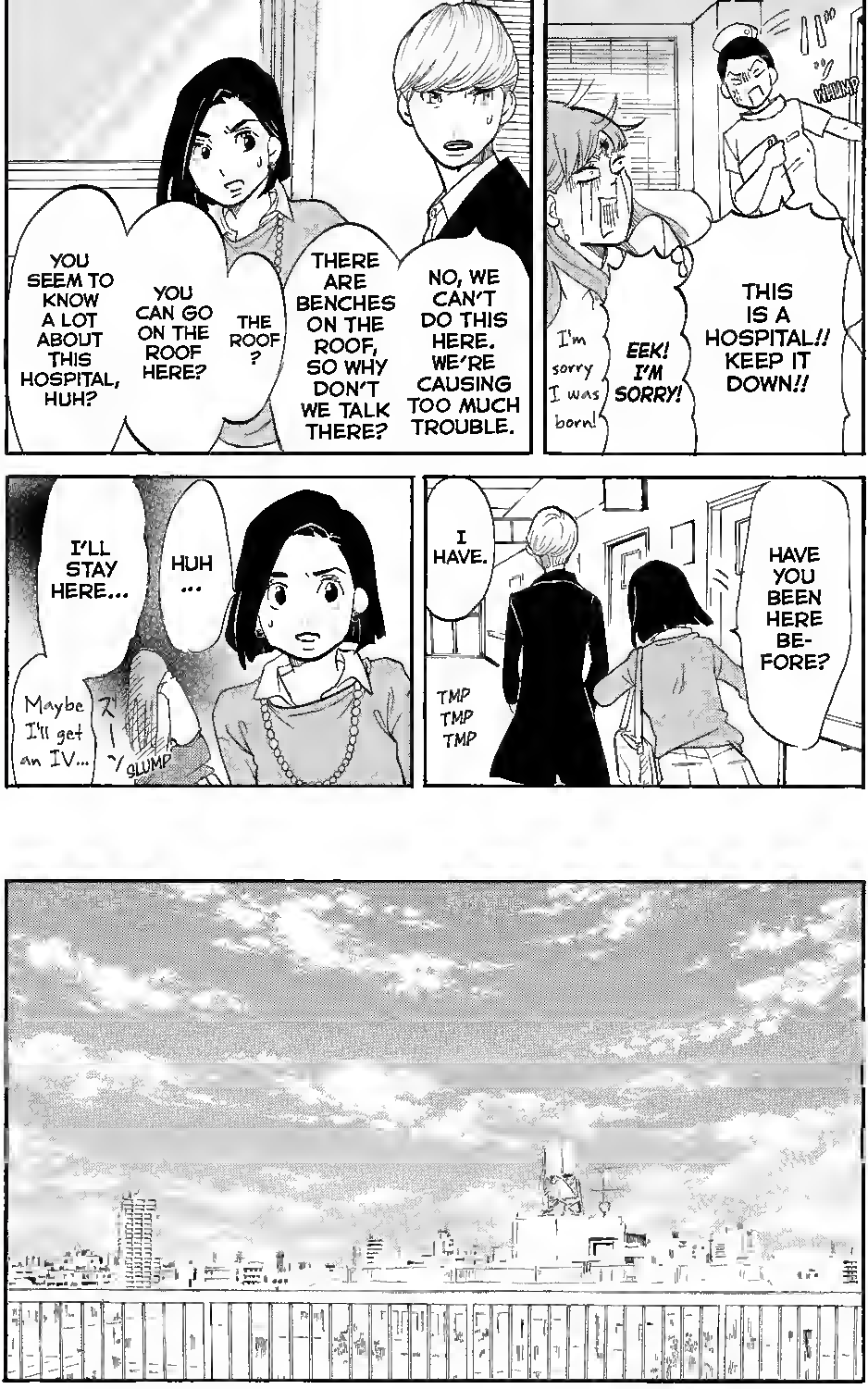
YOU ALL CAME TO SEE ME?!
WOW!

11
THUDD
ドサッ
I'M SORRY I TAGGED ALONG AS WELL.
OH, I'LL LEAVE THIS FRUIT BASKET HERE.
WE'RE KIND OF LIKE SOME NON-REFUNDABLE INSURANCE IN CASE THE WORST HAPPENED...
OH NO! NO! WE'LL BE OUT IN THE HALL! YOU TWO HAVE FUN IN HERE...
...MR. MARUI?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
TMP TMP
WE'LL HAVE THE MEETING THERE.
I'M PRETTY SURE THERE'S A VISITORS' LOUNGE ON THE OTHER SIDE.
KOYUKI...
MR. MARUI...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK SO THIN...
OH, I'VE BEEN PUKING FOR TWO DAYS STRAIGHT ...
I PROBABLY DID LOSE A BIT OF WEIGHT. HAHA!
BUT I'M FINE NOW! I ALREADY GOT MY APPETITE BACK THIS MORNING!
RUSTLE
OH, WHEN YOU TOLD ME THAT EARLIER ...
...I MADE THIS.
I MADE MINESTRONE AND PUMPKIN PUDDING ...
HUH?!
YOU DID SAY THE HOSPITAL FOOD WAS NO GOOD...
THUMP
HERE.
KOYUKI ...
SNIFF... I'M SO HAPPY RIGHT NOW...
HAHA... WHAT AN EXAGGERATION.
QUIVER
QUIVER
QUIVER
WHAP

I WANNA HUG YOU...
Huh?!
YOU IDIOT. THIS IS A HOSPI-TAL.
SO WHAT? HERE IT COMES!
SQUEEEEZE
ぎゅううう
THANKS, KOYUKI ...
I'M REALLY HAPPY...
よし
THERE, THERE.
休憩コーナー
Lounge
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?
MAKE SURE YOU WRITE THIS DOWN.

THOSE ARE ALL MY OLD STAND-BYS...
1: CONVENIENT COINCIDENCES ARE OFF LIMITS.
2: THE ENTIRE CONCEPT OF "MY PRINCE CHARMING" IS OFF LIMITS.
3: THE HEROINE GETTING DRUNK WITH THE GUY SHE LIKES AND ACCIDENTALLY REVEALING HOW SHE REALLY FEELS, BRINGING THEM CLOSER TOGETHER IS OFF LIMITS.
4: PERFECTLY TIMED TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS ARE OFF LIMITS.
5: SOMEONE BEING TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY FOR WORK IN THE FINAL EPISODE IS OFF LIMITS.
THINGS THAT ARE OFF LIMITS WHEN WRITING THIS SCRIPT!
AND NO BANGING YOUR EX-BOYFRIEND AND LIKING IT.
CONK CONK CONK
I'M SORRY, BUT IF ALL THOSE ARE OFF LIMITS, I CAN'T WRITE.
I'M GONNA HAVE TO IGNORE THAT.
AND I DON'T WANNA SEE SOMEONE'S SECOND WOMAN BECOMING NUMBER ONE.
CONK
YOU'RE DOING THAT ON PURPOSE, AREN'T YOU?!
BY THE WAY, RYO HAS OTHER WOMEN AS WELL.
YOU AREN'T EVEN NUMBER TWO.
YAAAAAAARGH!
JUMP
JUMP


YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS HOSPITAL, HUH?
YOU CAN GO ON THE ROOF HERE?
THE ROOF?
THERE ARE BENCHES ON THE ROOF, SO WHY DON'T WE TALK THERE?
NO, WE CAN'T DO THIS HERE. WE'RE CAUSING TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
I'm sorry I was born!
EEK! I'M SORRY!
THIS IS A HOSPITAL!! KEEP IT DOWN!!
WHAMP
I'LL STAY HERE...
HUH ...
Maybe I'll get an IV...
ズ
GLUMP
I HAVE.
TMP TMP TMP
HAVE YOU BEEN HERE BEFORE?

ANY-HOW...
YOU UNDER-STAND IF YOU MIX IN YOUR OWN FLAVOR AFTER THE SERIES HAS ALREADY STARTED, IT'S ONLY GOING TO MAKE IT TASTE BAD, RIGHT?
THE SERIES'S PERSPEC-TIVE WILL FALL APART.
NOT MY PROB-LEM.
THAT'S ON THE WOMAN WHO GOT SENT TO THE HOSPITAL AND THE PRODUCER WHO ASKED ME TO FILL IN.
BUT I'VE GOT MY PRIDE AS A PROFES-SIONAL WRITER.
I'LL MAKE THIS SCRIPT GOOD. YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT.
EVEN IF IT TAKES US DOWN A DIFFERENT PATH, I'M GOING TO DO THIS MY WAY.
CLENCH
AND...
I'M GOING TO TURN THIS CALAMITY INTO AN OPPORTUNITY!

NO.
AT YOUR AGE, AN OPPORTUNITY IS A CALAMITY.
CALAMITIES ARE ONLY OPPORTUNITIES WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG.
YOU'RE NOT A ROOKIE, SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL YOU'RE GETTING RESULTS.

IF A PINCH HITTER COMES IN AND STRIKES OUT, THEY'RE TREATED LIKE GARBAGE.
WHEN A PINCH HITTER IS A VETERAN ...
THE LESS LIKELY IT IS THEY'LL BE ON THE STARTING LINEUP ...
THE MORE THEY'RE RETIRED ...
THE MORE LIKELY THEIR CONTRACT IS CANCELED.
YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?
IF YOU SCREW UP ON THIS SERIES...
...YOU'LL BE TREATED LIKE A WAR CRIMINAL.

...WITH YOU?
...
WHAT IS IT...
DO YOU ENJOY TEASING ADULTS UNTIL YOU HURT THEM?
WHAT'S FUN ABOUT TALKING LIKE THAT?
STOP MAKING FUN OF ME.
IT'S NOT THAT MAJOR, IS IT?
...
GET HURT, THEN.

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'LL KILL YOU.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
WHA ...?
RINKO !!
WE'RE IN TROU-BLE!! YOU GOTTA COME QUICK !!

OH, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THESE TWO OTHER REGULARS OF MY PUB.
WHOOSH
FWAP
FWIP
ZOOM
EYE CONTACT
"YOU TWO COME IN AND PLAY ALONG."
NOD
NOD

DON'T SCARE US LIKE THAT!!
HIS SISTER ?!

OH, HELLO!
I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO MEET FRIENDS OF MY BROTHER.
ペコ
BOW

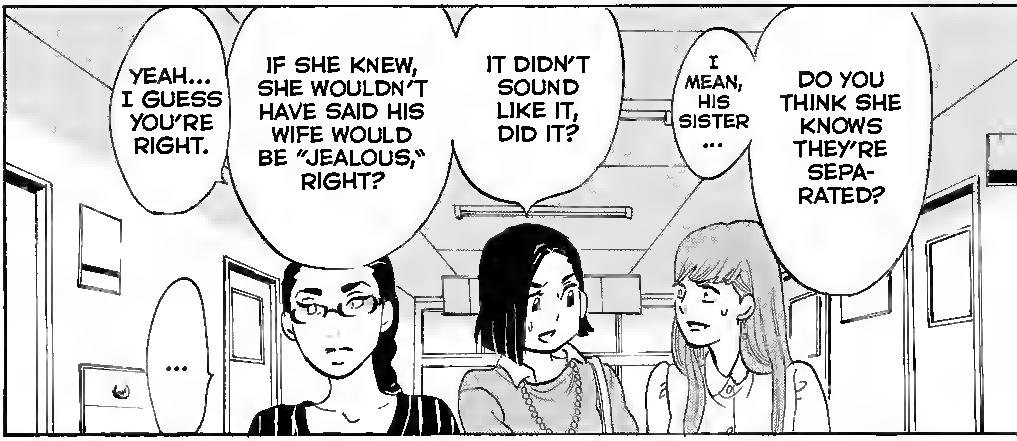
LOOK AT ALL THESE PRETTY LADIES YOU KNOW! YOU LUCKY DOG!
GOSH ...
WE BUMP INTO MR. MARUI THERE ALL THE TIME! AHAHAHA!
They look just alike...
WE'RE ALL REGULARS OF THIS BACKSTREET PUB ON OMOTESANDO. WE'RE KIND OF A TEAM...
SORRY WE ALL BARGED IN LIKE THIS...

ピタッ FREEZE

IF ORINO SAW THEM, SHE'D BE JEALOUS FOR SURE! ♡

CLACK
CLACK

HAHA!
CUT IT OUT, SIS.
WELL !!
GOSH!! LOOK AT ALL THAT FRUIT!! WHAT'S WITH THIS?!
OH, YOU CAN HAVE IT, MA'AM. GO RIGHT AHEAD!


DO YOU THINK SHE KNOWS THEY'RE SEPA-RATED?
I MEAN, HIS SISTER ...
IT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE IT, DID IT?
IF SHE KNEW, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE SAID HIS WIFE WOULD BE "JEALOUS," RIGHT?
YEAH... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
...

THANKS FOR COMING WITH ME TODAY.
I'LL GIVE YOU A DRINK NEXT TIME ON THE HOUSE.

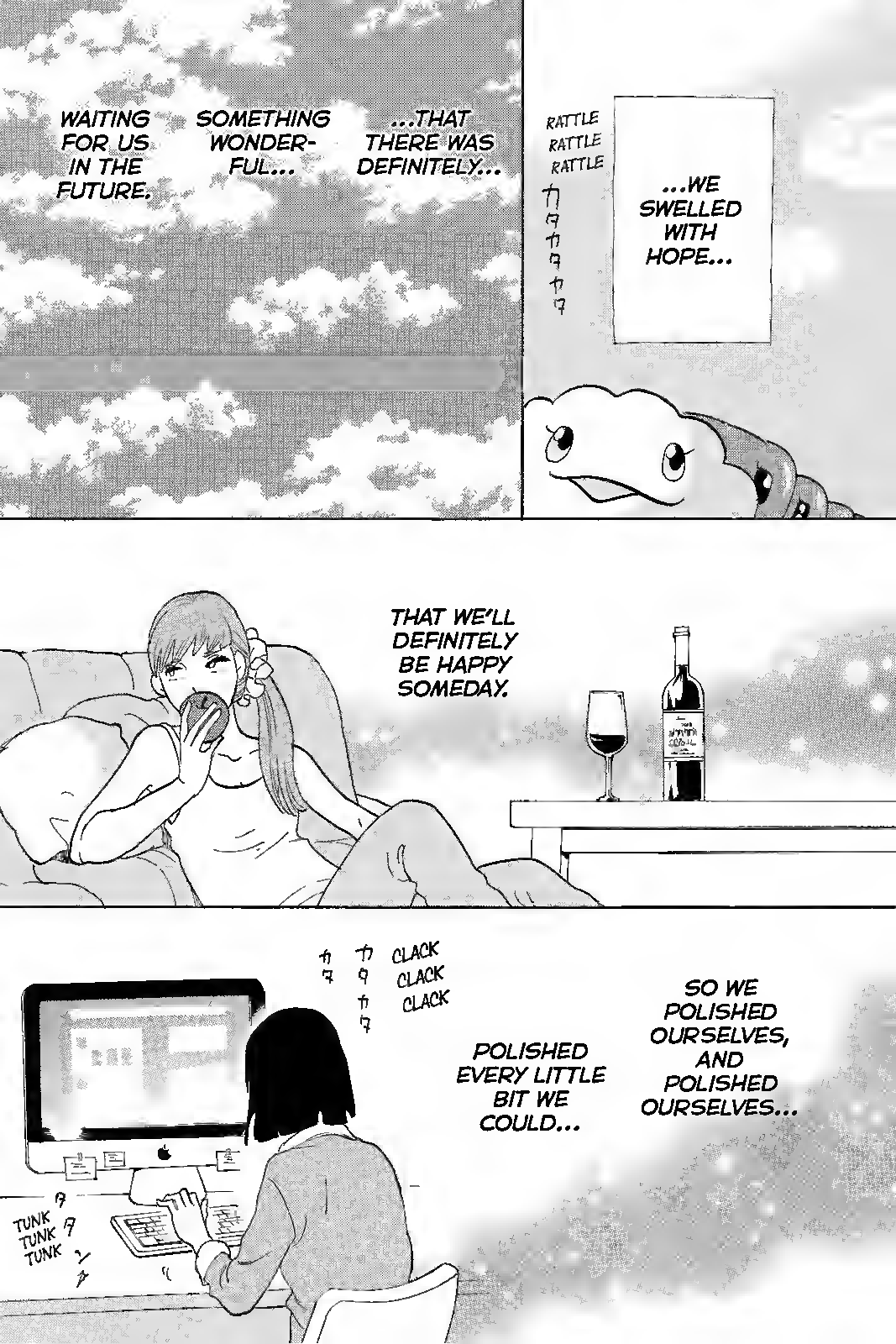
WHAT'S THAT, KOYUKI?
HUH?
TUPPER-WARE...
NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT.
I'VE GOT TO GET THINGS READY AT THE PUB, SO I'M LEAVING.
FWIP

KOYUKI
...

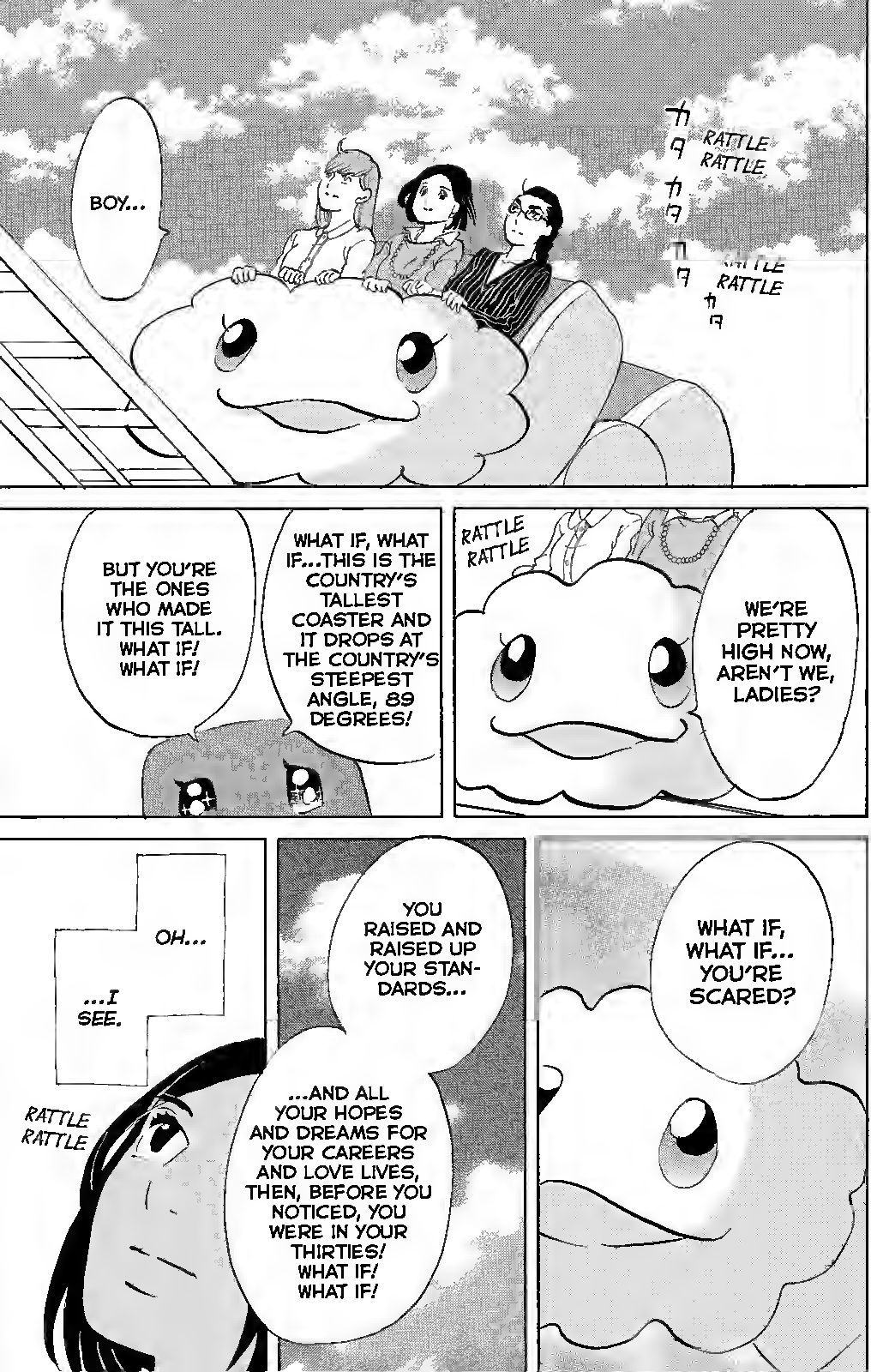
THAT OVER THERE'S ABOUT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE.
IT'S STILL THE SAME...
Kagitani ...
Look, it's the Tokyo Tower.

It looks so small from here.
Like a little toy.
From up here, Tokyo looks like a toy town, huh?
Don't you think so, Kagitani?

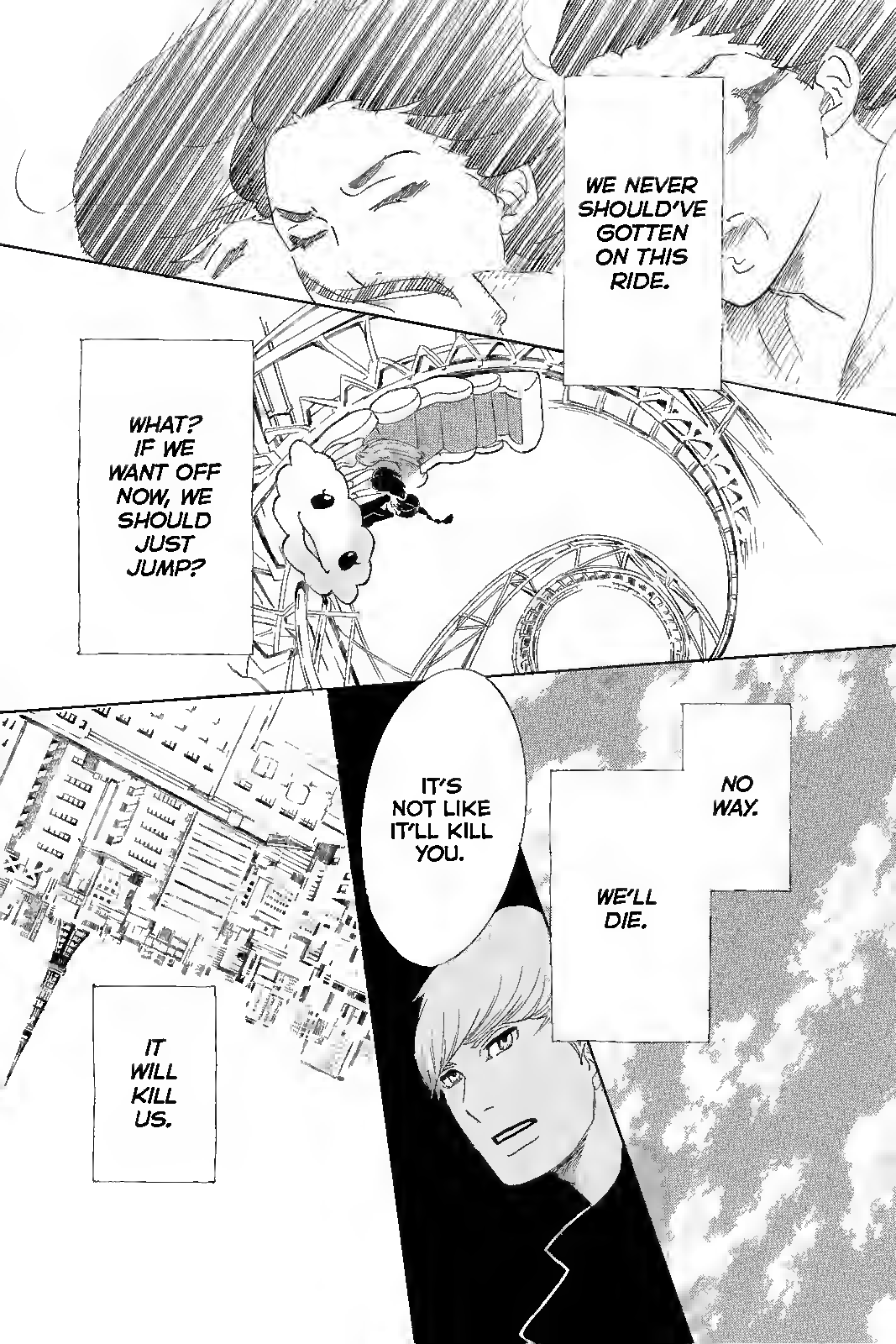
...ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING FUN...
...IN THIS TOWN...
...WE HAVE LIVED...
FOR YEARS AND YEARS...
WHEN WE WERE YOUNG, WE WEREN'T AFRAID OF ANYTHING.
FOR SOMETHING EXCITING.
...AS WE CLIMBED THAT RICKETY RAIL...
WE DIDN'T GIVE A SINGLE THOUGHT TO WHAT WAS WAITING AHEAD...


WAITING FOR US IN THE FUTURE.
SOMETHING WONDER-FUL...
...THAT THERE WAS DEFINITELY...
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
カタカタカタ
...WE SWELLED WITH HOPE...
THAT WE'LL DEFINITELY BE HAPPY SOMEDAY.
カタカタ
CLACK CLACK CLACK
POLISHED EVERY LITTLE BIT WE COULD...
SO WE POLISHED OURSELVES, AND POLISHED OURSELVES...
TUNK TUNK TUNK

Orino Marui Mrs Orino Marui has uploaded a new photo.
I went home for a while to give birth to number two!
CLICK
RATTLE RATTLE
RATTLE RATTLE


BOY...
RATTLE RATTLE
RATTLE RATTLE
WE'RE PRETTY HIGH NOW, AREN'T WE, LADIES?
RATTLE RATTLE
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...THIS IS THE COUNTRY'S TALLEST COASTER AND IT DROPS AT THE COUNTRY'S STEEPEST ANGLE, 89 DEGREES!
BUT YOU'RE THE ONES WHO MADE IT THIS TALL. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU'RE SCARED?
YOU RAISED AND RAISED UP YOUR STANDARDS...
...AND ALL YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR YOUR CAREERS AND LOVE LIVES, THEN, BEFORE YOU NOTICED, YOU WERE IN YOUR THIRTIES! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
RATTLE RATTLE
OH...
...I SEE.

THE ONLY THING LEFT NOW...IS THE FALL.


WE NEVER SHOULD'VE GOTTEN ON THIS RIDE.
WHAT? IF WE WANT OFF NOW, WE SHOULD JUST JUMP?
NO WAY.
WE'LL DIE.
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'LL KILL YOU.
IT WILL KILL US.

TO US, IF WE CAN'T BE HAPPY, THAT'S AS GOOD AS BEING DEAD.

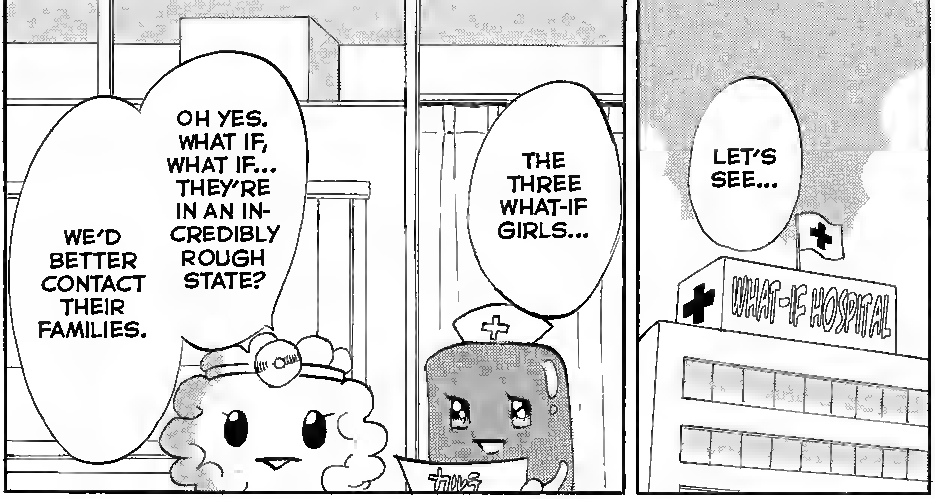
I can't lose this game.
...AL-READY...
...LOST...
PSHHH
I'VE...
KER-CHUNK
GULP

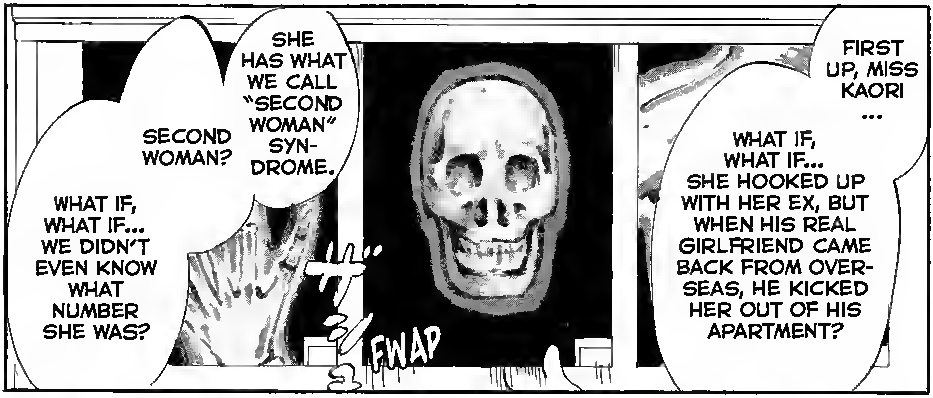
NO ONE'S COMING TOMORROW FOR SURE, SO COME BACK!
OH, KOYUKI?
I'D REALLY LOVE SOME OF YOUR HOMEMADE STEW!
CAN YOU BELIEVE MY APPENDIX ACTING UP AT MY AGE? HOW EMBARRASSING!
YES, I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MISS SAWADA? YOU'RE ONLY 22!
THEN YOU'LL BE OUT OF THE HOSPITAL BY NEXT WEEK?
HUH ?!

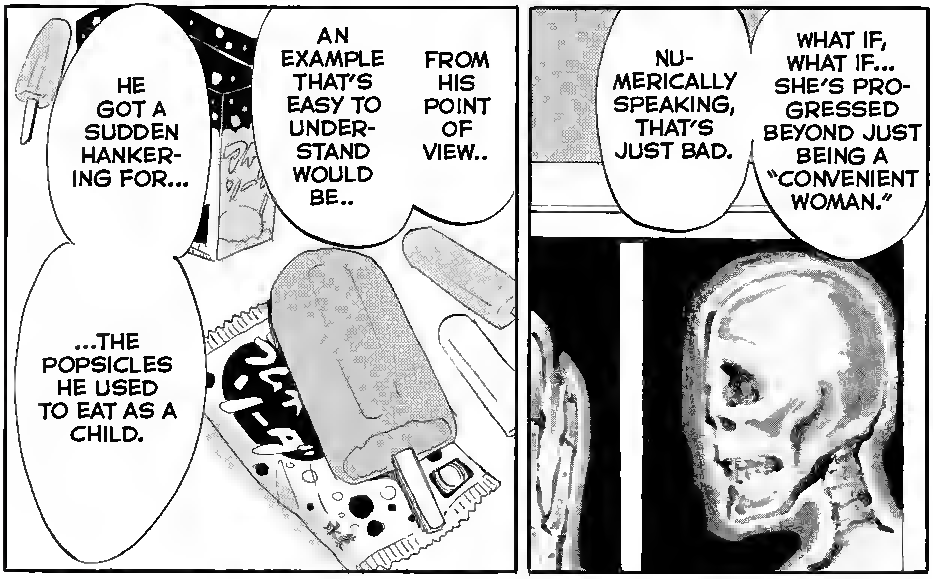
I GET THE FEELING WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RECOVER AFTER THIS.

SIGH...

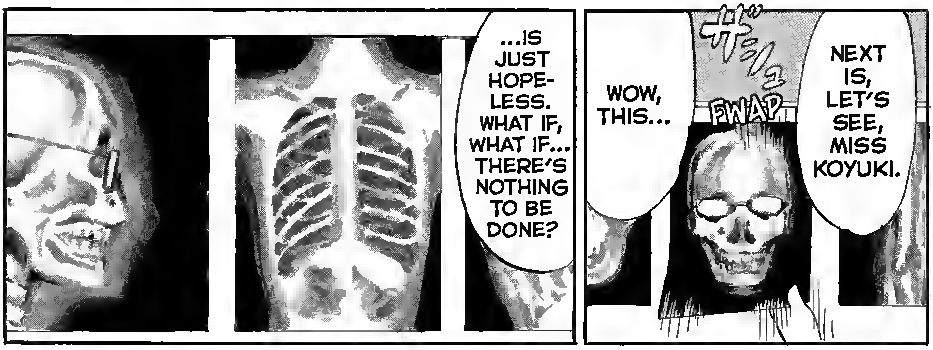
ACT 10 THE RUNAWAY WOMAN

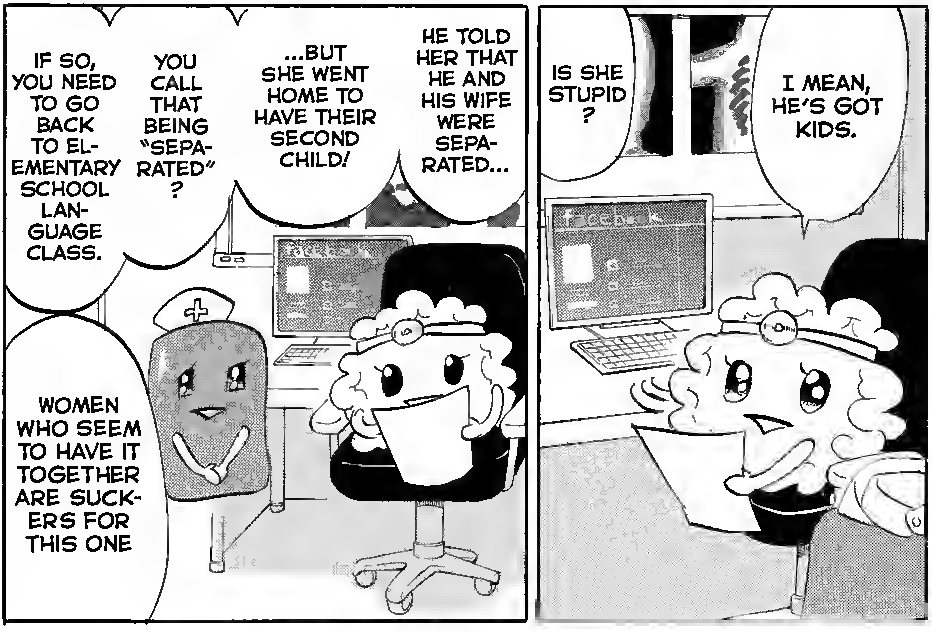

LET'S SEE...
WHAT-IF HOSPITAL
THE THREE WHAT-IF GIRLS...
OH YES. WHAT IF, WHAT IF... THEY'RE IN AN INCREDIBLY ROUGH STATE?
WE'D BETTER CONTACT THEIR FAMILIES.


FIRST UP, MISS KAORI ...
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... SHE HOOKED UP WITH HER EX, BUT WHEN HIS REAL GIRLFRIEND CAME BACK FROM OVERSEAS, HE KICKED HER OUT OF HIS APARTMENT?
SHE HAS WHAT WE CALL "SECOND WOMAN" SYNDROME.
SECOND WOMAN?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT NUMBER SHE WAS?
FWAP

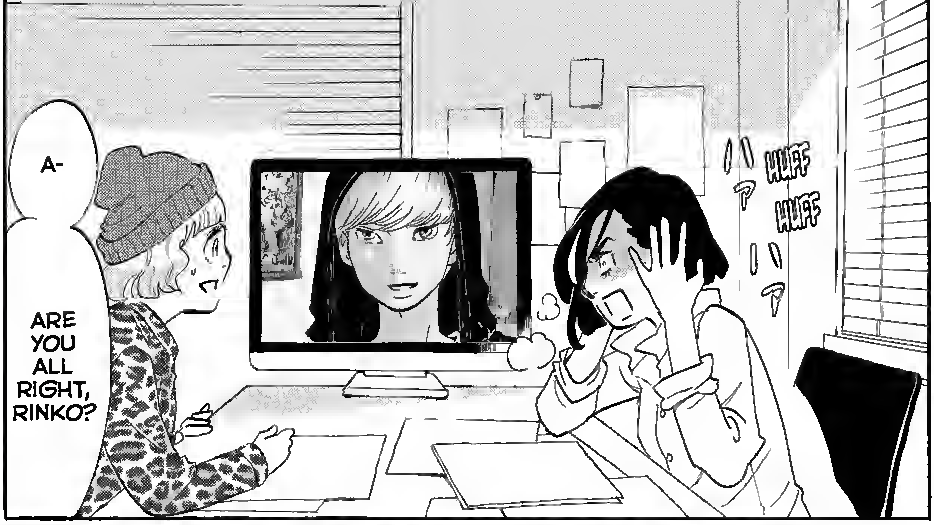

FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW..
AN EXAMPLE THAT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND WOULD BE..
HE GOT A SUDDEN HANKERING FOR...
...THE POPSICLES HE USED TO EAT AS A CHILD.
NUMERICALLY SPEAKING, THAT'S JUST BAD.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... SHE'S PROGRESSED BEYOND JUST BEING A "CONVENIENT WOMAN."

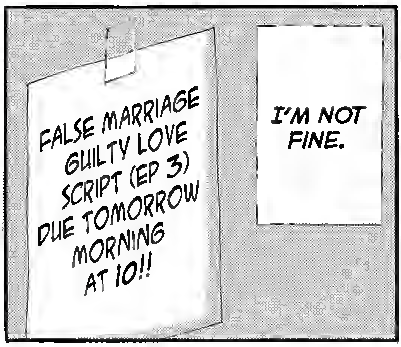
BUT YOU STILL WANT TO HAVE ONE EVERY SO OFTEN, YOU KNOW? WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
THAT OLD CHEST-NUT.
AND YOU NEVER WIN THE PRIZES.
Häagen-Dazs
It tastes so cheap!
BUT THEN REAL-IZED THAT, COMPARED TO HÄAGEN-DAZS, THEY TASTE LIKE CRAP!

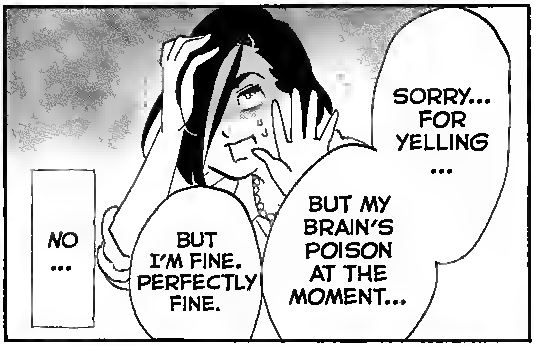

...IS JUST HOPE-LESS. WHAT IF, WHAT IF... THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE?
WOW, THIS...
FWAP
NEXT IS, LET'S SEE, MISS KOYUKI.

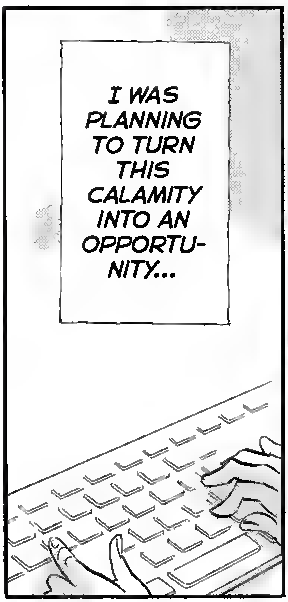

IF SO, YOU NEED TO GO BACK TO EL-EMENTARY SCHOOL LAN-GUAGE CLASS.
YOU CALL THAT BEING "SEPA-RATED"?
...BUT SHE WENT HOME TO HAVE THEIR SECOND CHILD!
HE TOLD HER THAT HE AND HIS WIFE WERE SEPA-RATED...
WOMEN WHO SEEM TO HAVE IT TOGETHER ARE SUCK-ERS FOR THIS ONE
IS SHE STUPID?
I MEAN, HE'S GOT KIDS.

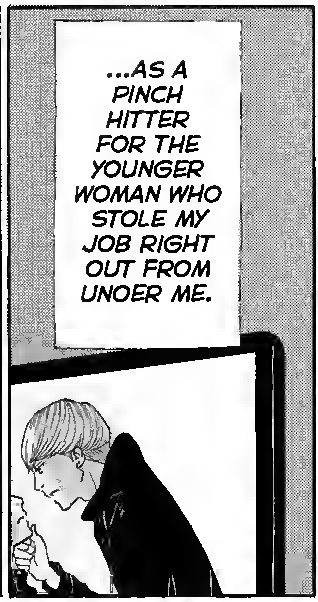
IN HER CASE, YOU KNOW... ANYWAY...
WELL ...
WE...
...ARE FAR TOO LATE TO SAVE HER.
FWIP
OH, THIS LADY ...
DOCTOR, HERE'S THE FINAL PATIENT.
YOU'LL BE UNEMPLOYED AND 40 WHEN THE OLYMPICS ROLL AROUND AGAIN! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
...BUT IF YOU LOSE YOUR JOB, YOU CAN'T GET YOUR DAILY BREAD! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
YOU CAN LIVE WITHOUT LOVE IF YOU HAVE TO...
YEAH ...
FLASH
HER CAREER AND LOVE LIFE ARE TEETERING ON THE BRINK. WHAT IF, WHAT IF... SHE'LL BE IN REAL TROUBLE IF SHE DOESN'T GET HER CAREER UNDER CONTROL?
BWA HA HA HA!
AHA HA HA HA HA HA!
HEH HEH HEH HEH!!
AHHHHH!
SHUT UP! DON'T TALK INSIDE MY HEAD!


A-
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, RINKO?
HUFF HUFF

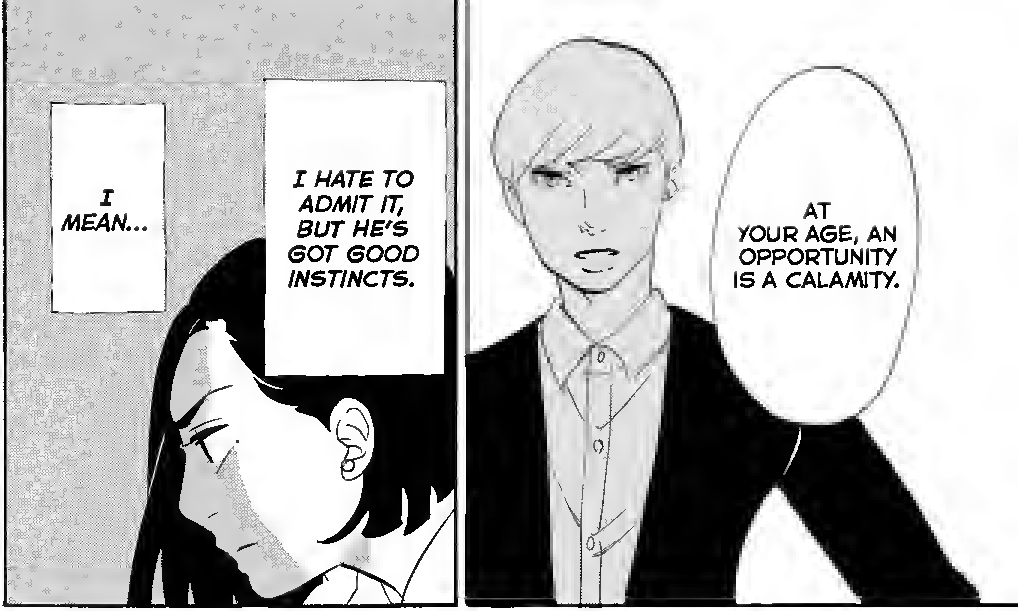

I'M NOT FINE.
FALSE MARRIAGE GUILTY LOVE SCRIPT (EP 3) DUE TOMORROW MORNING AT 10!!

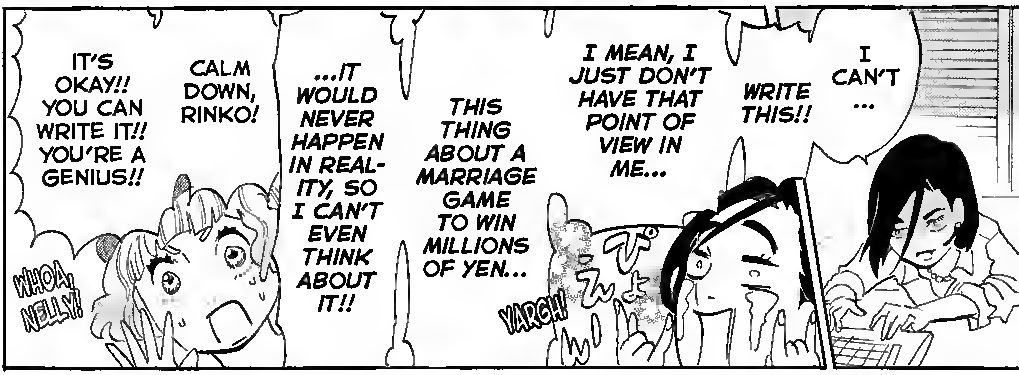

SORRY... FOR YELLING ...
BUT MY BRAIN'S POISON AT THE MOMENT...
NO ...
BUT I'M FINE. PERFECTLY FINE.


I WAS PLANNING TO TURN THIS CALAMITY INTO AN OPPORTU-NITY...

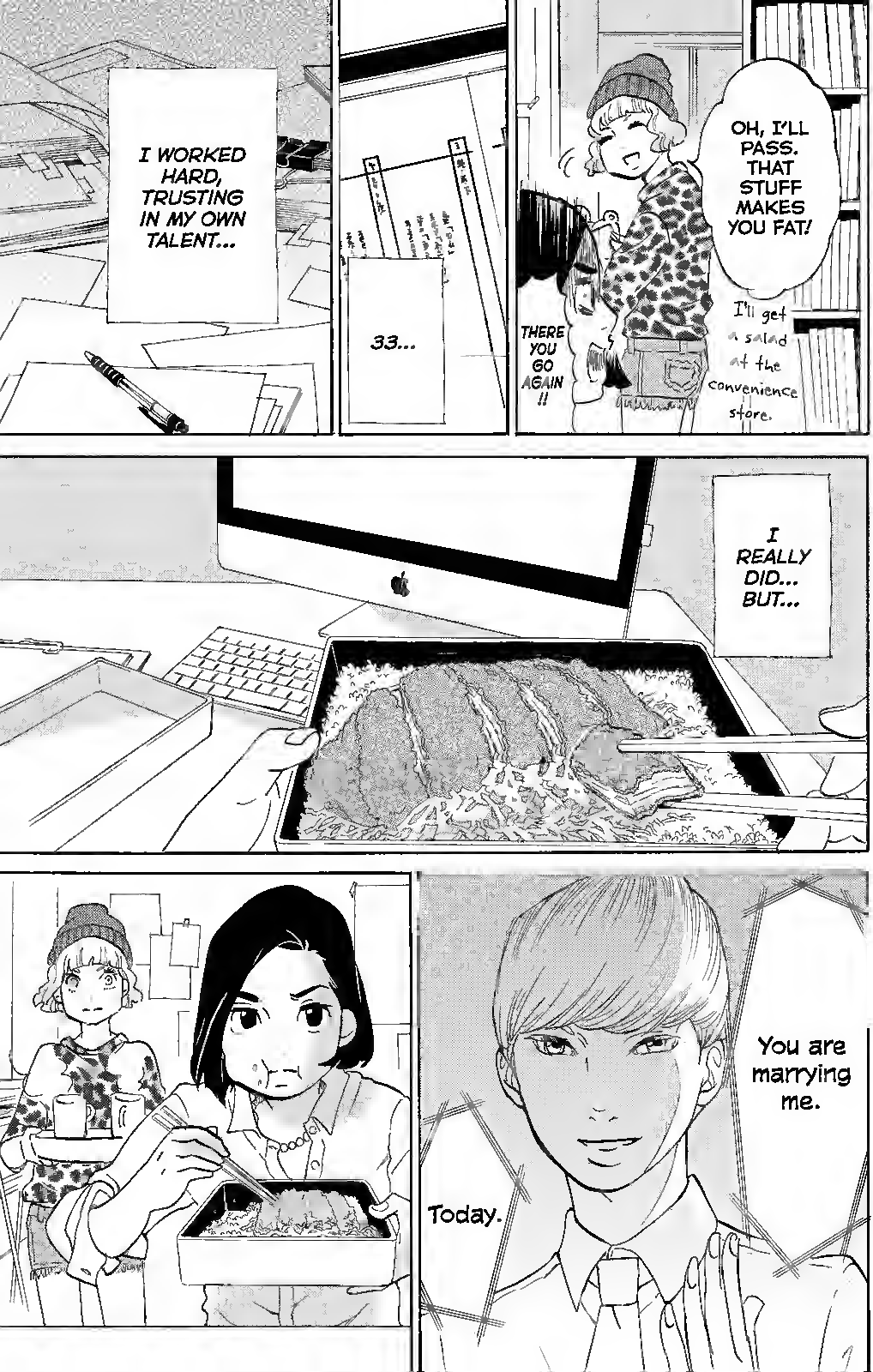

...AS A PINCH HITTER FOR THE YOUNGER WOMAN WHO STOLE MY JOB RIGHT OUT FROM UNOER ME.

I ENOEO UP WRITING THE THIRO EPISOOE OF THIS SERIES...


I MEAN...
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT HE'S GOT GOOD INSTINCTS.
AT YOUR AGE, AN OPPORTUNITY IS A CALAMITY.


IT'S OKAY!! YOU CAN WRITE IT!! YOU'RE A GENIUS!!
CALM DOWN, RINKO!
WHOA, NELLY!
...IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN IN REALITY, SO I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!!
THIS THING ABOUT A MARRIAGE GAME TO WIN MILLIONS OF YEN...
I MEAN, I JUST DON'T HAVE THAT POINT OF VIEW IN ME...
YARGH!
WRITE THIS!!
I CAN'T ...

OH, EXCUSE ME! I'D LIKE ONE ORDER OF KATSU-DON!
OKAY! HAVE IT DELIVERED TO JINGU-MAE, XX-CHOME, VILLA OLYMPIA.
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT YOURS, MAMI?
GOOD CHOICE !!
KATSU-DON ...
LET'S CHOW DOWN ON SOME KATSU-DON!!
MAYBE YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BECAUSE YOU'RE HUNGRY!
OH! LET'S ORDER SOMETHING FOR DINNER!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, RINKO ?!


I WORKED HARD, TRUSTING IN MY OWN TALENT...
33...
THERE YOU GO AGAIN !!
OH, I'LL PASS. THAT STUFF MAKES YOU FAT!
I'll get a salad at the convenience store.
I REALLY DID... BUT...
You are marrying me.
Today.

HUH ?!
I'LL GO!
I CAN'T WRITE THIS UNLESS I HAVE A REFERENCE TO WORK FROM...
I CAN'T DO THIS. AFTER I EAT, I'M GONNA RUN DOWN TO TSUTAYA AND RENT A DVD...
You stay at your desk, Rinko!
WHAT ?
BUT IT'S SUCH A GOOD SCENE!
IT'S MAKING MY KATSU-DON TASTE BAD!!
TURN IT OFF!!
R'ARGH!!!
WOW!
I SEE!
JUST SEEING ALL THE OLD MOVIE TITLES LINED UP LIKE THAT CAN GIVE YOU IDEAS.
NO, I'VE GOTTA DO THIS MYSELF.
WRITERS HAVE TO STUDY OLD MOVIES AND TV SHOWS!
IF YOU ONLY FOLLOW THE FADS, YOU'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO WRITE SHALLOW STORIES !!
I DON'T REALLY WATCH A LOT OF OLD MOVIES ...
BUT IT'S A CLAS-SIC!!
WHAT?! MAMI, YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT?!
They're just not for me.
YOU CAN'T BE PICKY!
"GREEN CARD" IS THE FAMOUS ONE...
WHAT MOVIES ARE THERE ABOUT FAKE MAR-RIAGES?
WHAT'S THAT? IS IT GOOD?

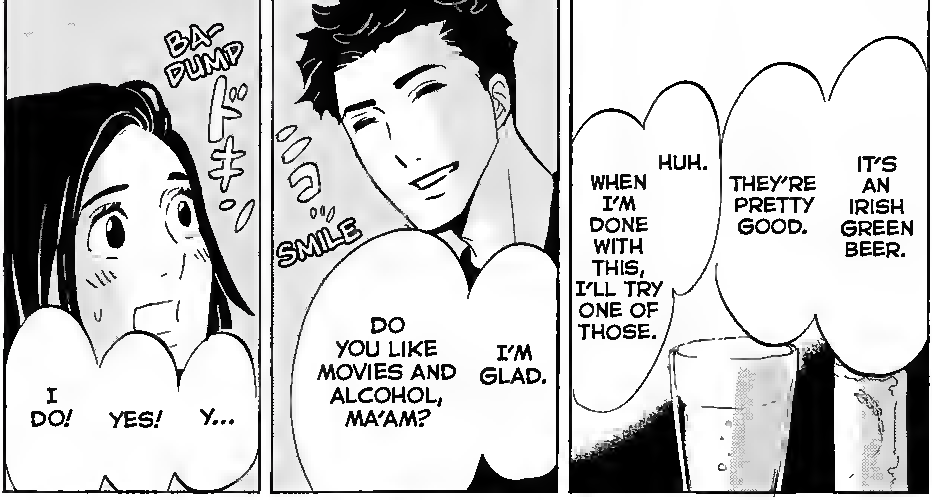
AT THIS POINT, I'VE GOTTA DO IT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THIS IS A CALAMITY OR WHATEVER ELSE...
BOW
ペコ
Always listen to your elders!
GOOD GIRL!
GOSH, RINKO!
YOU TEACH ME SO MUCH!
I SEE!
GERARD DEPARDIEU
ANDIE MacDOWELL
GAH!
I'LL SHOW THEM WHAT A THIRTY-SOMETHING WOMAN CAN DO!
EX-CUSE ME...
WHAT?! I KNOW IT'S OLD, BUT THIS IS A CLASSIC ...
OH, YEAH. ONLY THE ONE THAT'S OUT.
YOU ONLY HAVE ONE COPY OF THIS?
EX-CUSE ME!
UM!
SOME-ONE'S GOT IT ALREADY ...
It's empty.

LOVE STORY
I RENTED THAT ONE...
BA-DOOM
BA-ZOOM
BA-BOOM
TRICEPS
PECS
FACE

OVER
PLINK
LOAD
UM...
HAIR: AMPLE
HEIGHT: APPROXIMATELY 5'9"
JEANS: EXPENSIVE LOOKING
AGE: ???
RMB
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH IT WITH ME?

BOOM
CINEMA BAR
SUNSET
BOOM
GREEN CARD
TA-DAH
SINCE THE MOVIE'S "GREEN CARD," I MADE YOU A GREEN DRINK.
HERE YOU ARE.

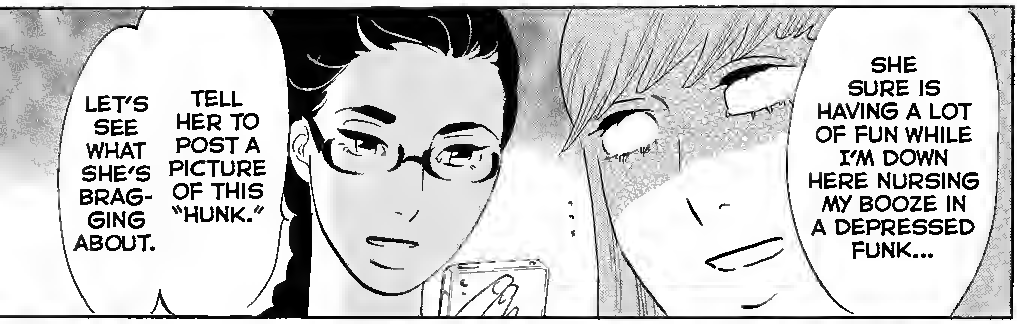
I ALMOST PANICKED THERE FOR A SECONO ...
HAHA ...
IT'S A COCKTAIL CALLED AN "EMERALD COOLER."
HEHEHEH!
WOW!
IT'S SO PRETTY!
SPLASH
WHAT AM I, AN IDIOT?
OF COURSE A HUNK LIKE THIS WOULDN'T BE FLIRTING WITH THE LIKES OF ME...
WOW!
A GREEN BEER?
AND SINCE IT'S A SLOW NIGHT, I'LL DRINK ONE TOO.
BLUB BLUB BLUB
NO, NO, NO! I CAN'T WRITE IT IN ANY CASE UNLESS I SEE THIS MOVIE...
...WHAT AM I DOING, ANYWAY? COMING ALONG WITH HIM RIGHT BEFORE A OEAOLINE ...
ALL RIGHT, I'LL START IT BACK AT THE TITLE.
GULP GULP

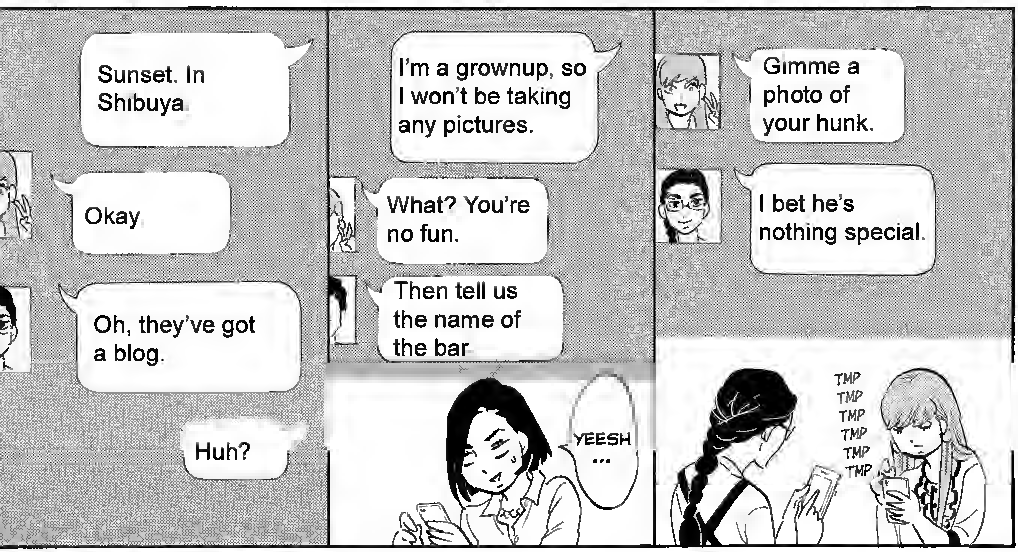

BA-DUMP
ドキッ
I DO!
YES!
Y...
SMILE
DO YOU LIKE MOVIES AND ALCOHOL, MA'AM?
I'M GLAD.
HUH.
WHEN I'M DONE WITH THIS, I'LL TRY ONE OF THOSE.
THEY'RE PRETTY GOOD.
IT'S AN IRISH GREEN BEER.

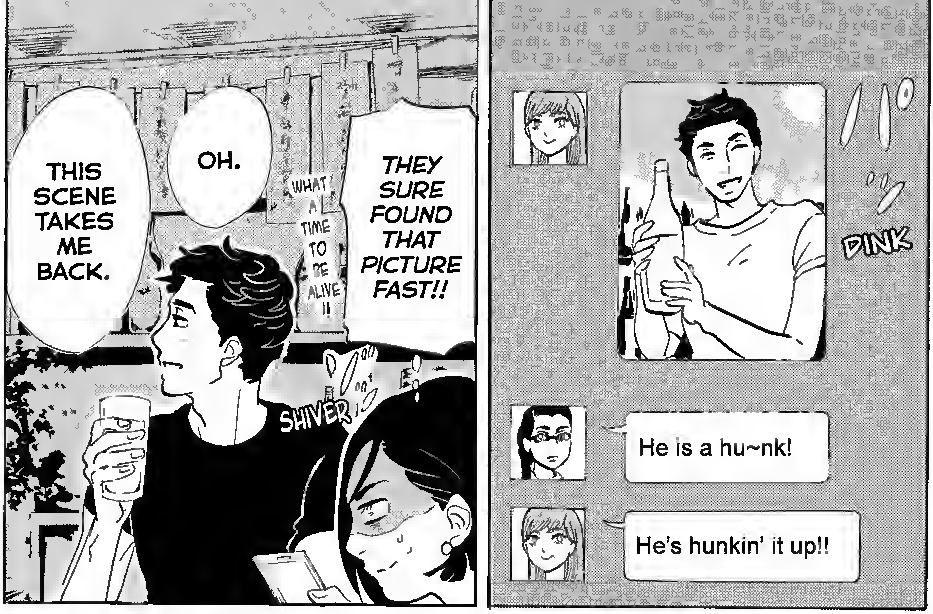
YES!
CHEERS!
TINK
CHEERS!!
I'M GLAD I TALKED TO YOU.
THEN OUR BAR IS A PERFECT FIT!

I'm watching a movie and drinking with a hunk. In a Movie Bar

酒処
PUB


SHE SURE IS HAVING A LOT OF FUN WHILE I'M DOWN HERE NURSING MY BOOZE IN A DEPRESSED FUNK...
TELL HER TO POST A PICTURE OF THIS "HUNK."
LET'S SEE WHAT SHE'S BRAG-GING ABOUT.


Sunset. In Shibuya
Okay
Oh, they've got a blog.
Huh?
I'm a grownup, so I won't be taking any pictures.
What? You're no fun.
Then tell us the name of the bar
YEESH ...
Gimme a photo of your hunk.
I bet he's nothing special.
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

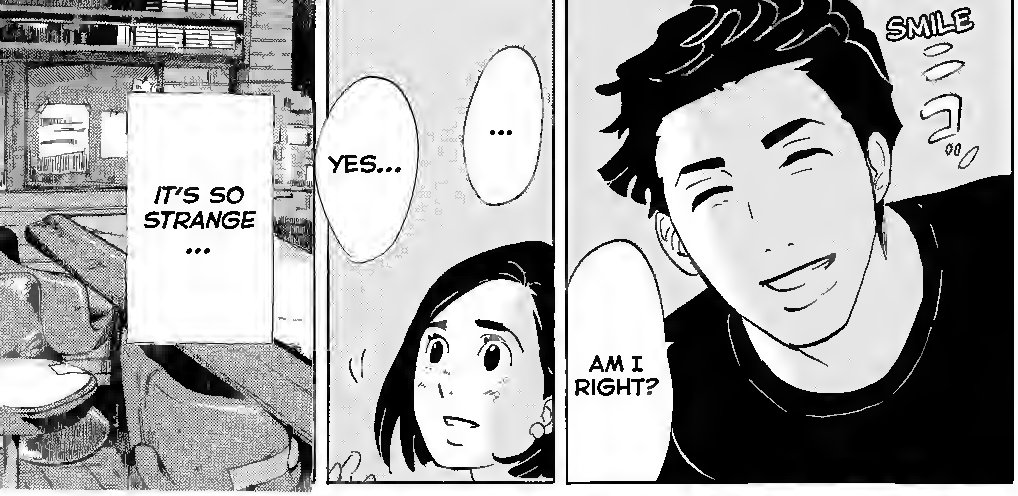

THIS SCENE TAKES ME BACK.
OH.
WHAT A TIME TO BE ALIVE !!
THEY SURE FOUND THAT PICTURE FAST!!
SHIVER
PINK
He is a hu~nk!
He's hunkin' it up!!

...IN THIS OLD MANSION WITH A GREEN-HOUSE.
THIS PROTAGO-NIST WALKS SLOWLY THROUGH ALL THE PLANTS...

SHE ISN'T REALLY THAT PRETTY, BUT HER TIRED, RESIGNED SMILE REALLY GETS ME...
I ACTUALLY LIKE THIS ACTRESS QUITE A BIT.

HOW OLD WAS SHE IN THIS ONE?
OH, PROBABLY AROUND... 32 OR 33.
ERK!
THAT'S MY AGE...
BUT...
I THINK WOMEN ARE AT THEIR MOST BEAU-TIFUL...
...AT THAT AGE.
OH.

YOU KNOW, YOU RESEMBLE HER A LITTLE
AND YOU'VE GOT THE SAME AURA AROUND YOU TOO.
I WONDER WHY...
STARE
OH.
I'VE GOT THAT FULL-BLOODED JAPANESE FACE!!
NO WAY!
NO!
BEEK!
THERE IS NO WAY I LOOK LIKE HER!
AROUND THE EYES...
AND EYEBROWS ...
ARE YOU...A LITTLE TIRED?


IT'S SO STRANGE ...
YES...
...
AM I RIGHT?
SMILE

...MY FROZEN HEART...
KER-CHUNK
THEN MAYBE I'LL MAKE SOME-THING JUST FOR YOU.
WHEN I TALK TO HIM ...

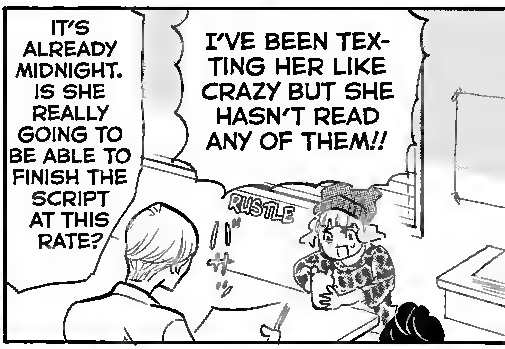
OH, SO I...
CLINK
...STARTS TO MELT.
LIKE THE ICE IN THIS GLASS.

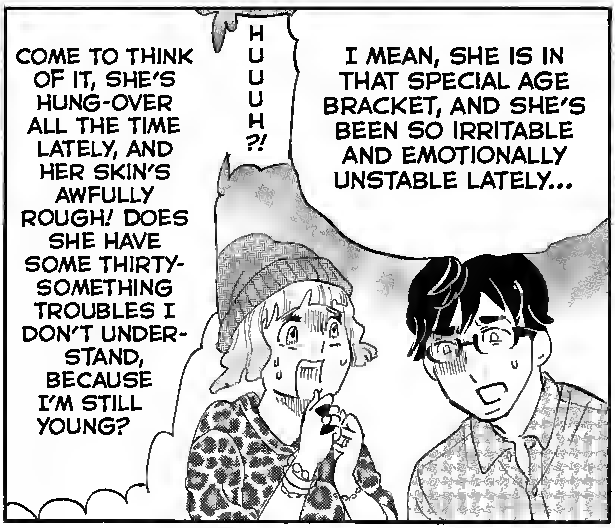
FWOOM
HUH?
WHOA!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
CLACK
...WAS TIRED?
THE CRÈME BRÛLÉE FROM "AMÉLIE"!
BINGO!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE IT.
WHAT WITH THE HAIRCUT AND ALL.
AHAHA! GOOD POINT.
FWIP
THERE WE GO! ALL DONE!
OH!
I DO LIKE THAT MOVIE.
SO CUTE... AND FANCY...
YOU TAKE A SPOON AND...
CONK
CRUNCH
OH!
YOU BROKE IT NICE AND CLEAN!

SWEETS ARE THE BEST MEDICINE FOR A WOMAN WHO'S TIRED FROM WORK!
AND FOR A WOMAN WHO'S TIRED FROM LOVE...
THUNK
...BOOZE IS BEST!
BRANDY GOES GREAT WITH BRÛLÉE!
HERE YOU ARE.
I'LL KEEP YOU COMPANY ALL NIGHT.
NO, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
RINKO JUST WENT TO TSUTAYA TO RENT A MOVIE FOR REFERENCE!

SORRY, MAMI, BUT KEY INSISTED...
THEN WHY HASN'T SHE COME BACK FOR TWO WHOLE HOURS?
WE EVEN BROUGHT SNACKS FOR A MEETING AND THIS IS THE THANKS WE GET.

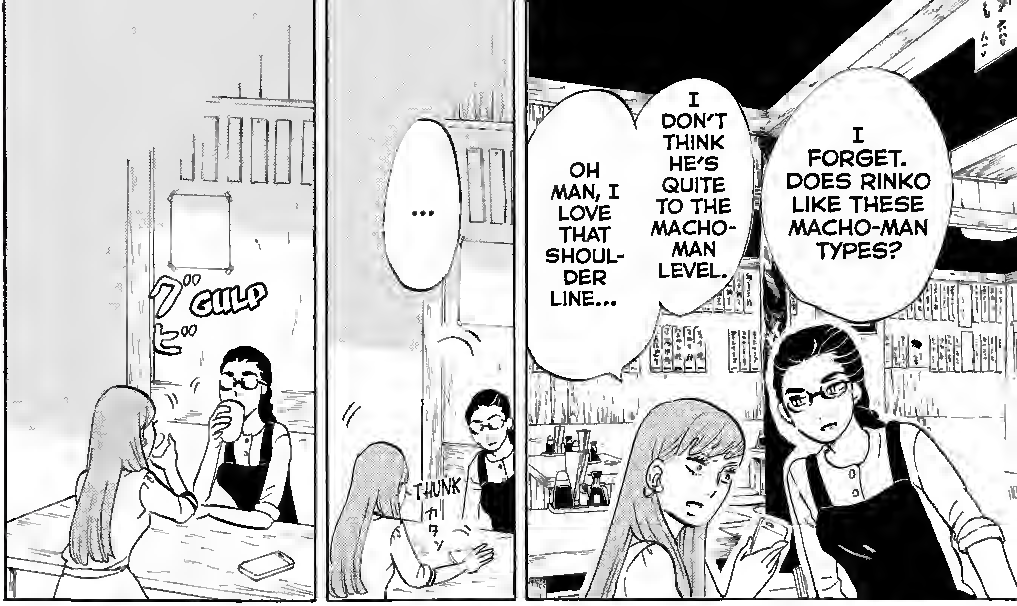
D-
DO YOU THINK... MAYBE...
...SHE RAN OUT ON US?


I'VE BEEN TEXTING HER LIKE CRAZY BUT SHE HASN'T READ ANY OF THEM!!
IT'S ALREADY MIDNIGHT. IS SHE REALLY GOING TO BE able TO FINISH THE SCRIPT AT THIS RATE?
RUSTLE


I MEAN, SHE IS IN THAT SPECIAL AGE BRACKET, AND SHE'S BEEN SO IRRITABLE AND EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE LATELY...
HUUUH?!
COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE'S HUNG-OVER ALL THE TIME LATELY, AND HER SKIN'S AWFULLY ROUGH! DOES SHE HAVE SOME THIRTY-SOMETHING TROUBLES I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BECAUSE I'M STILL YOUNG?

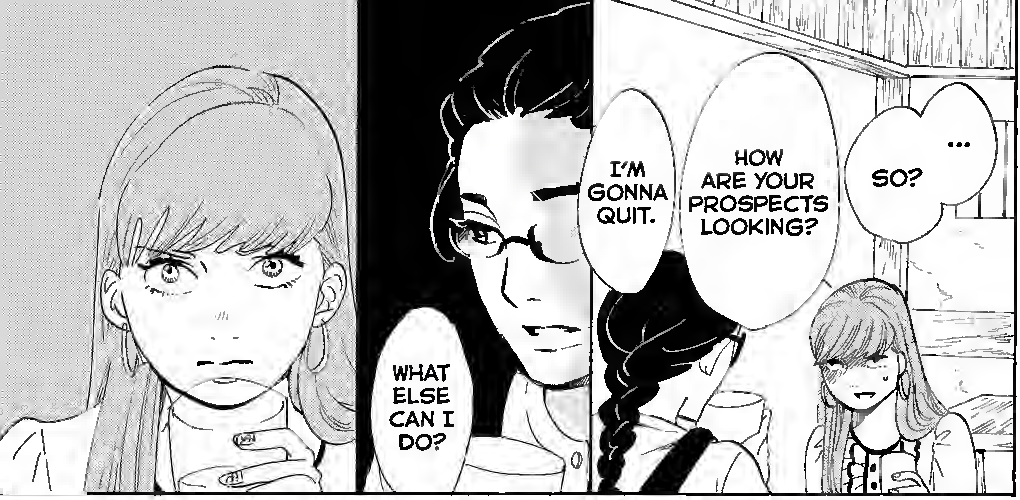
HUH?!
NO WAY!
RINKO WOULD NEVER DO THAT!
OH, I KNOW THAT! BUT, YOU KNOW!!

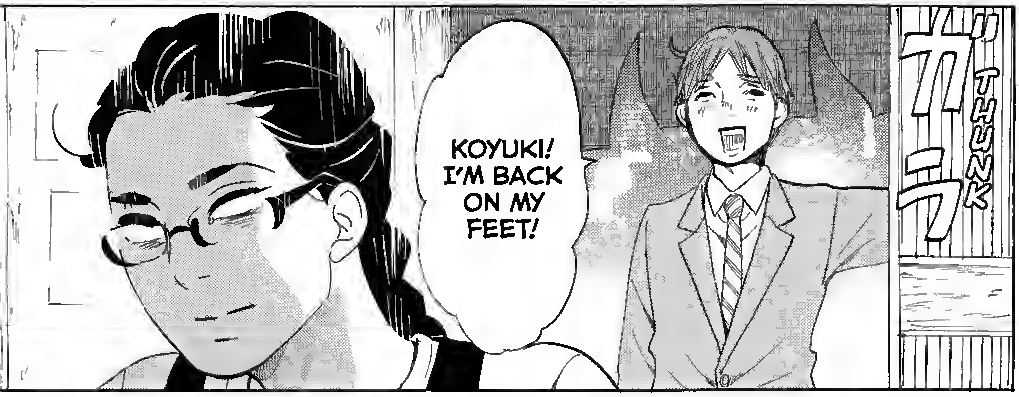
WHAT'S THIS FOLDER?
THE ONE THAT SAYS "FALSE MARRIAGE M"?
CLICK
HEY.
I LOVE YOU SOOO MUCH!!
OH MY GOSH! YOU'RE SOOO COOL RIGHT NOW, MR. HAYASAKA!
I'M SORRY, MAMI, BUT BECAUSE OF MY JOB I'VE GOT TO BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO!
THIS ...
WHAP
GLOW
NO, WAIT! THAT'S NOT—
AH!
WHAT'S THIS?
My first romantic night in a while...
THINGS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE GOING AWFULLY WELL...
NONBEE
酒処 呑んべえ


GULP
...
THUNK
I FORGET. DOES RINKO LIKE THESE MACHO-MAN TYPES?
I DON'T THINK HE'S QUITE TO THE MACHO-MAN LEVEL.
OH MAN, I LOVE THAT SHOULDER LINE...

DID YOU CHECK FACE-BOOK?
SORRY, I DID.

SILENCE
SORRY. I CAN'T.
YOU CAN LAUGH IF YOU WANT.
SILENCE


...
SO?
HOW ARE YOUR PROSPECTS LOOKING?
I'M GONNA QUIT.
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?


KOYUKI! I'M BACK ON MY FEET!
THUNK

LET'S GO OUTSIDE, MR. MARUI! OUTSIDE!
HUH ?!

Welcome, sir!
DAD'S HERE TODAY!
SO LAY OFF IT FOR NOW!!
AHHH, YOUR POOR, ELDERLY FATHER !!

WAIT, KAORI !!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--
LISTEN, YOU!!
THUNK

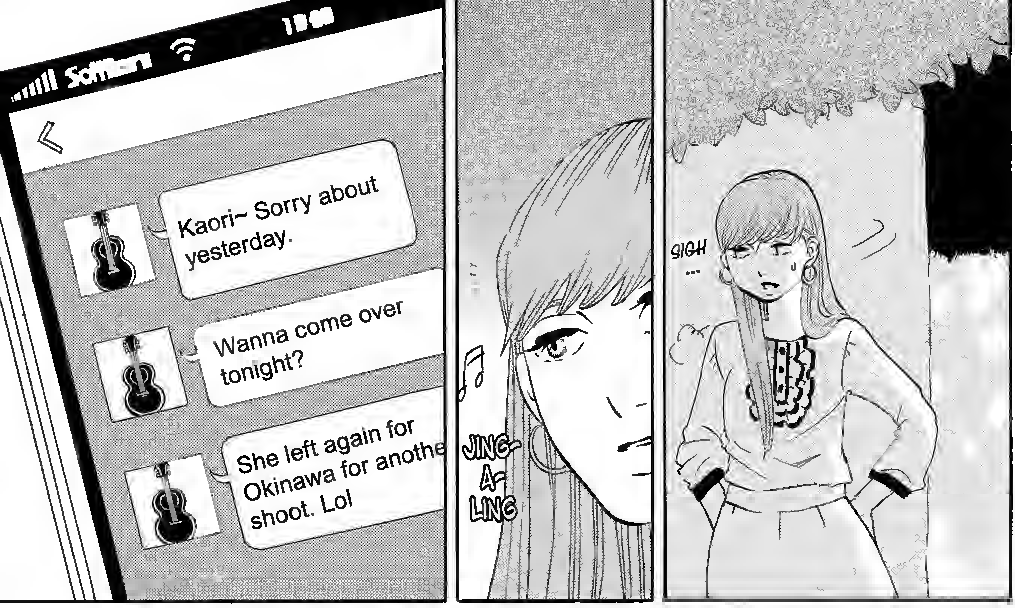
I'M SORRY.
I'LL TELL YOU, BECAUSE I'M NOT A LIAR.
NO! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
WAIT.
I'M NOT ANGRY.
I JUST...
TWITCH!
I SAW IT...
...YOUR WIFE'S FACE-BOOK.

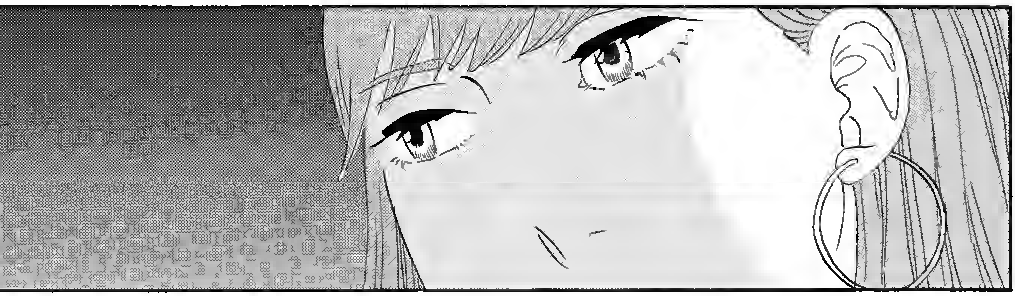
KOYU-KI...
...IF WE CALLED THE WHOLE THING OFF.
...THINK IT WOULD BE BEST...
CLENCH!
I HAVE ...
...NO RIGHT TO STOP YOU.
...
NONBEE
酒処 呑んべ
...BUT LET ME DEFEND MYSELF A LITTLE.
MY WIFE AND I HAVE BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS FOR A WHILE NOW...
...AND THAT'S PART OF THE REASON SHE WENT BACK TO HER PARENTS' PLACE.
BUT WOMEN ONLY POST THE GOOD THINGS ON FACEBOOK.

IF I HAD TOLD YOU I HAD CHILDREN, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN ME THE TIME OF DAY, WOULD YOU?
BUT ...
...YOU DIDN'T SAY ONE WORD ABOUT HAVING KIDS...
WELL !!
I GET IT! IT'S OKAY!
I WON'T HURT YOU ANY-MORE...
WH-
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
What are you, five?
BECAUSE I...
...LOVE YOU!

HARAJUKU st
I KNEW I WOULD END UP HURTING YOU...
...BUT ...
...EVEN IF I DID...
...I WANTED TO BE WITH YOU.
... HAHA ...
THAT'S CRAZY TALK...

LIAR.
IDIOT.
I HATE YOU.


Kaori~ Sorry about yesterday.
Wanna come over tonight?
She left again for Okinawa for another shoot. Lol
JING-A-LING
SIGH ...



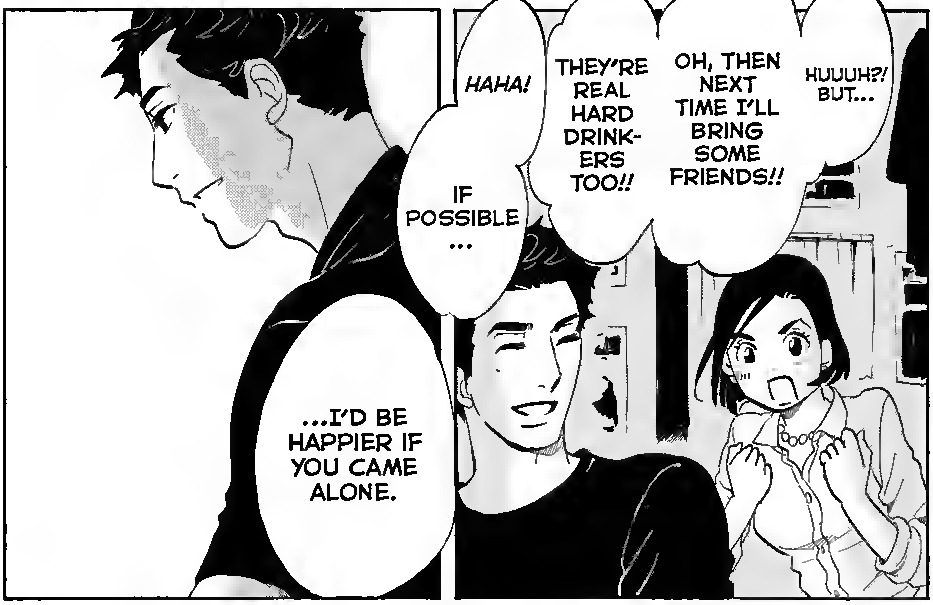
SIGH ...
THAT WAS GREAT...

I'll be there.

WATCHING IT NOW THAT I'M AN ADULT...
...IT'S SO INTERESTING. I SEE IT IN A WHOLE DIFFERENT LIGHT THAN WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
WHAT?
BUT YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.
NO! NO! NO!
WHOA!!
LOOK AT THE TIME!! I'VE GOTTA GET BACK!!
HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?!
OH...

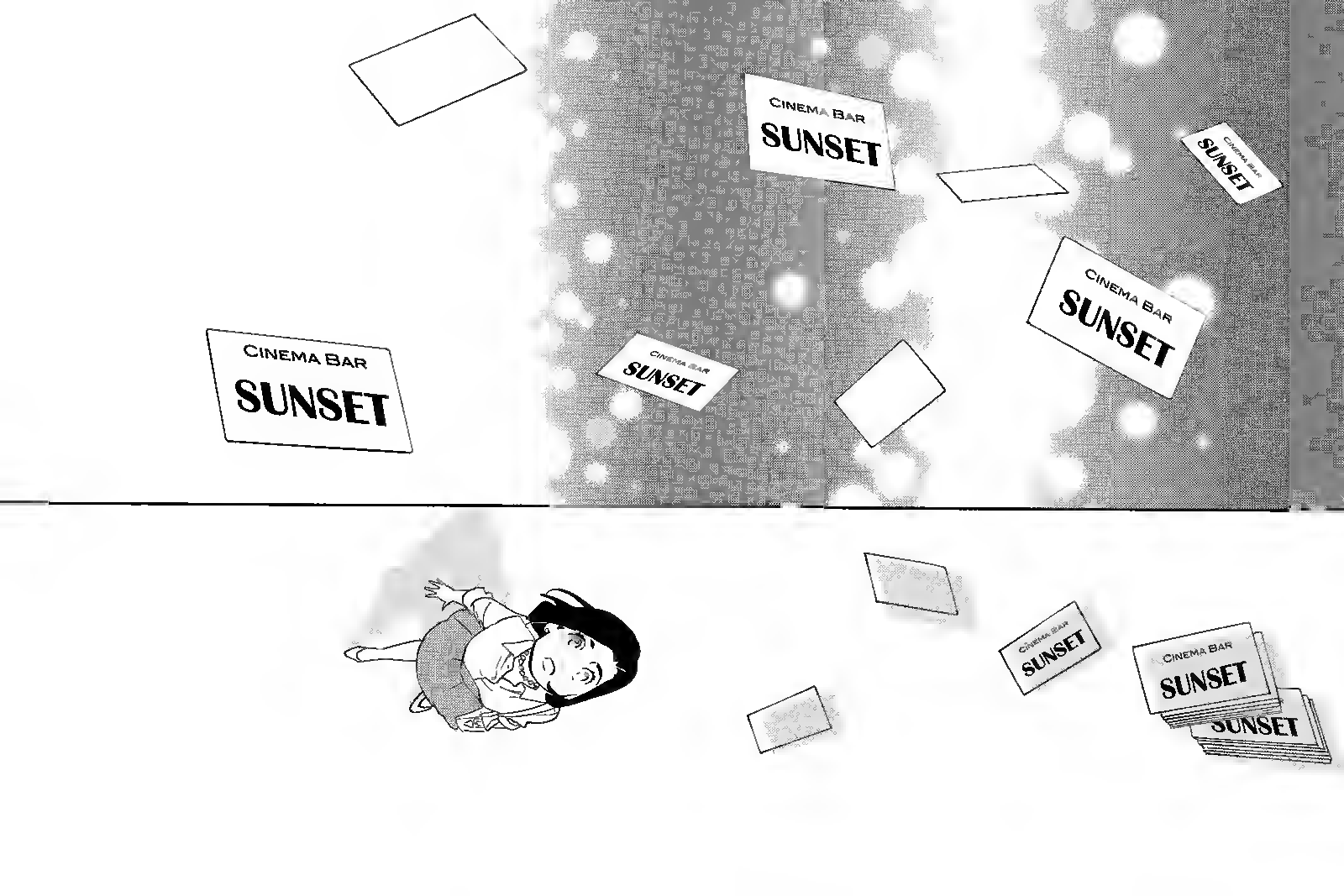
NOT AFTER I DRANK SO MUCH... I EVEN HAD DESSERT...
OH NO!
THEN COME BACK AGAIN SOMETIME.
CONSIDER TODAY A FREE SAMPLE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT TONIGHT!
I BASICALLY FORCED YOU TO TAG ALONG FOR MY EVENING DRINK ANYWAY.
WHAT?!
NO, NO! I COULDN'T DO THAT!


HUUUH?! BUT...
OH, THEN NEXT TIME I'LL BRING SOME FRIENDS!!
THEY'RE REAL HARD DRINKERS TOO!!
HAHA!
IF POSSIBLE...
...I'D BE HAPPIER IF YOU CAME ALONE.

I'M A LITTLE TIPSY...
I'M SORRY!
WAIT!
THUNK
OH! OKAY!
GASP!!
HUH?!
BLUUUSH
WHAM
FLAIL
FLAIL
NO! THAT'S ALL RIGHT!
I'LL, UM, COME A-ALONE NEXT TIME!
GOOD-NIGHT!
YES!
BYE!
YES!!
WHAM
STOMP
STOMP
WHIMP
MA'AM !!
ZOOM
HUFF
WHRRR
HUFF
!!
6
5
4
3
2
1

HERE !!
OUR SHOP CARD !!
TAKE--
ブーン WAVE
ブーン WAVE
SLIP つるっ
AH!!


CINEMA BAR
SUNSET
CINEMA BAR
SUNSET
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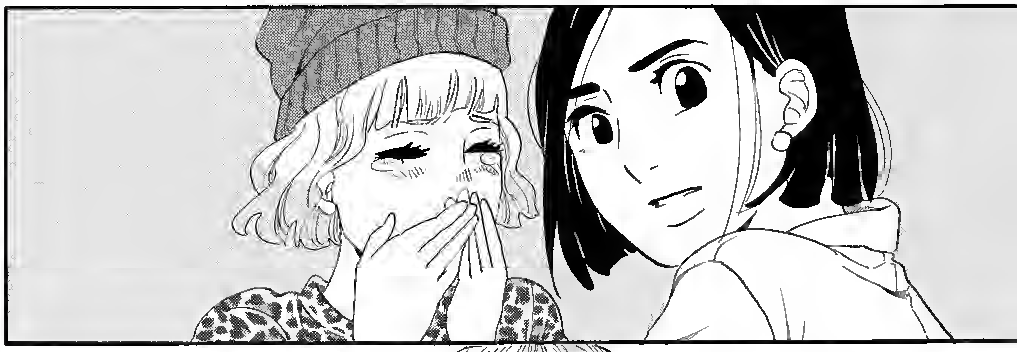
CINEMA BAR
SUNSET
CINEMA BAR
SUNSET
CINEMA BAR
SUNSET
I'VE GOT A FEELING ...
CINEMA BAR
SUNSET
CINEMA BAR
SUNSET

...THERE'S LOVE IN MY FUTURE.
WHERE WERE YOU?
DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE OUT DRINK-ING?

I CAN'T WORK WITH THIS.
MR. HAYA-SAKA.
LET'S GO WITH THE OTHER ONE.
BUT, KEY, THAT'S--
HUH ?!
I WASHN'T DRINK-ING!
READ THIS.
RUSTLE
... PLOT-TING AGAIN-SHT...
...I MEAN, PLOT-TING...
ARE YOU... PLAT-TING...
WHAT IS IT NOW ?!
W-
WH...
WHAT'S... THIS?
N-
NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, RINKO!
WEEMP
False Marriage(M)
Episode 3

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD PRACTICE ...
I WASN'T PLANNING TO SHOW ANYONE WHAT I WROTE...
THIS ISN'T WHAT I WROTE IT FOR...
...SO I THOUGHT I'D PREPARE FOR THAT TIME...
I MEAN, I MIGHT GET ONE OF THESE PINCH HITTER JOBS SOMEDAY...
I JUST THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I WOULD WRITE IF IT WERE ME...
!!
WE'RE TAKING THAT SCRIPT DOWN TO THE PRODUCER IMMEDIATELY.
AND THAT TIME IS NOW.

WAIT!
JUST GIVE ME A SECOND!
RUSTLE
I'M FINE NOW!
I'LL START ON IT RIGHT AWAY. THERE'S STILL SOME TIME LEFT.
SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY, MAMI.
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. I JUST WATCHED THAT MOVIE FOR REFERENCE...
READ IT.



UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU...
...IT'S GOOD.

BETTER THAN THE ONE YOU WROTE.
TIMES CHANGE.
MERCI-LESSLY, CRU-ELLY...
DIZZY-INGLY ...
FASTER THAN WE THINK.
246
413
413

ALL THE ADULTS LOOKED AT US WITH SURPRISE AND ADMIRATION.
WHEN WE WERE TWENTY, OUR THOUGHTS WERE ON THE CUTTING EDGE.
BUT WE'RE NOT NOVEL ANYMORE. NOW, WE'RE NOTHING SPECIAL.

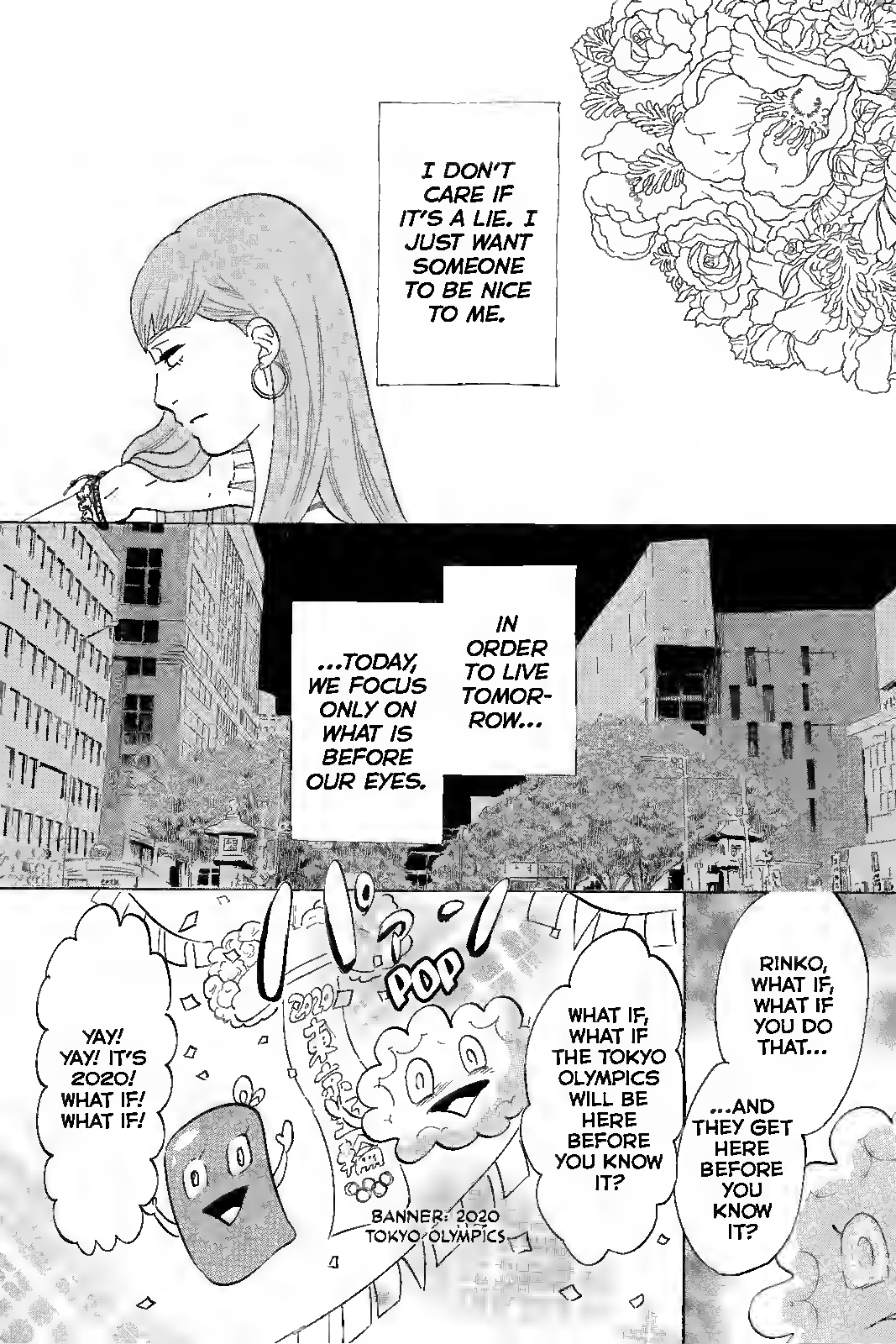
MAYBE I'LL JUST QUIT.
CINEMA BAR
SUNSET
IF I'VE GOT NO TALENT AND I'M BEHIND THE TIMES ANYWAY... AND IT'S ALL GOING TO BE DOWNHILL FROM HERE...
...MAYBE I'LL JUST QUIT THIS STINKIN' JOB.

CREAK
キィ
...WHOSE INTERESTS MATCH MINE, LIFE WOULD BE FUN.
I BET IF I WERE AROUND A SWEET, CHEERFUL GUY LIKE HIM...
BOY, THAT GUY SURE WAS NICE.
BETTER THAN THE ONE YOU WROTE.
IT'S GOOD.
EVEN AFTER WHAT WE DID.
HOW HAS IT GOTTEN ME AHEAD?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO SLEEP WITH YOU TO GET AHEAD.
HE'S SO MEAN.

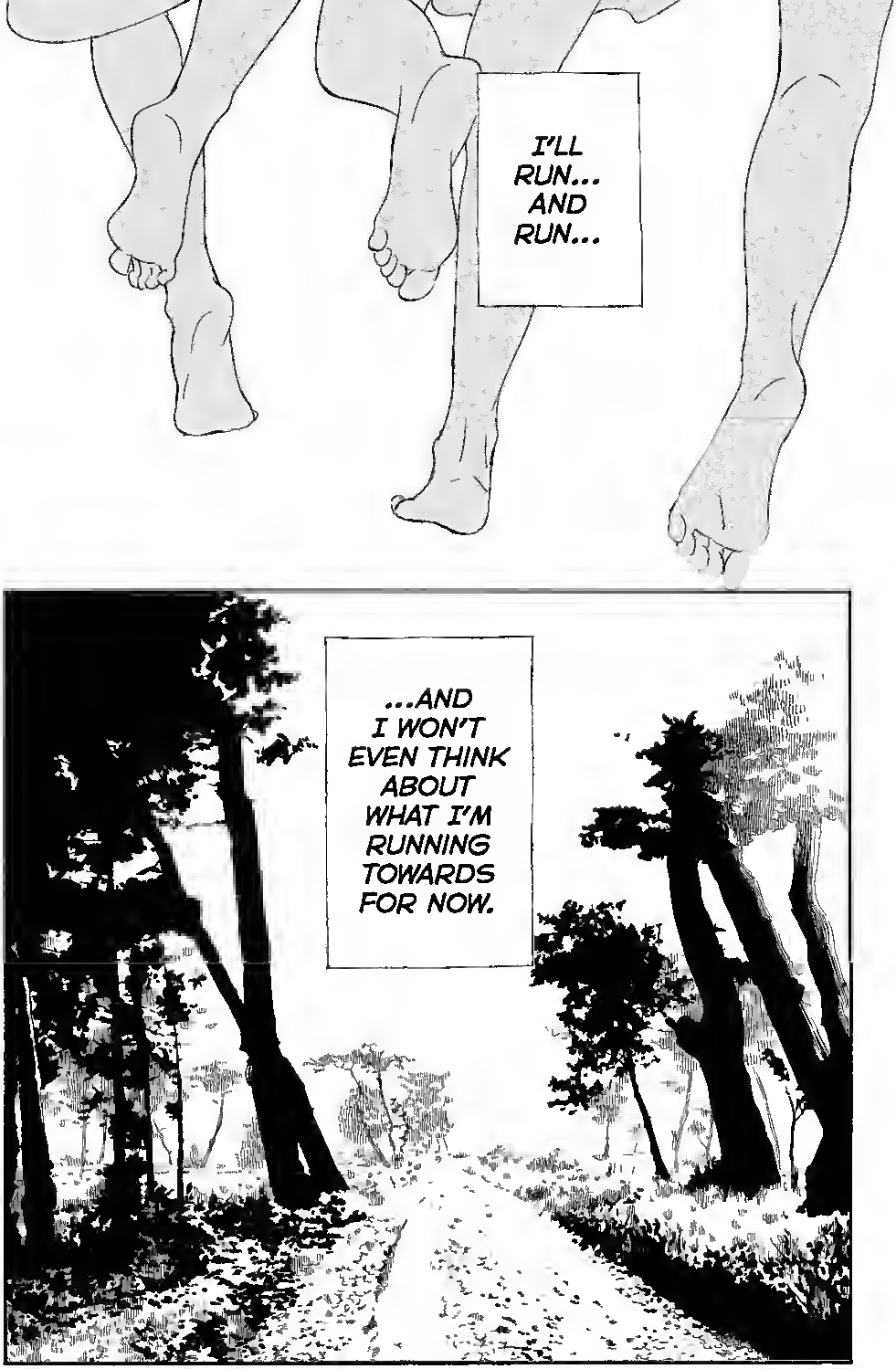
WHY DOES HE KEEP TORTURING ME?
I'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM.
THAT SETTLES IT.
POOF
WAFT
WAFT
I'LL LOVE HIM.

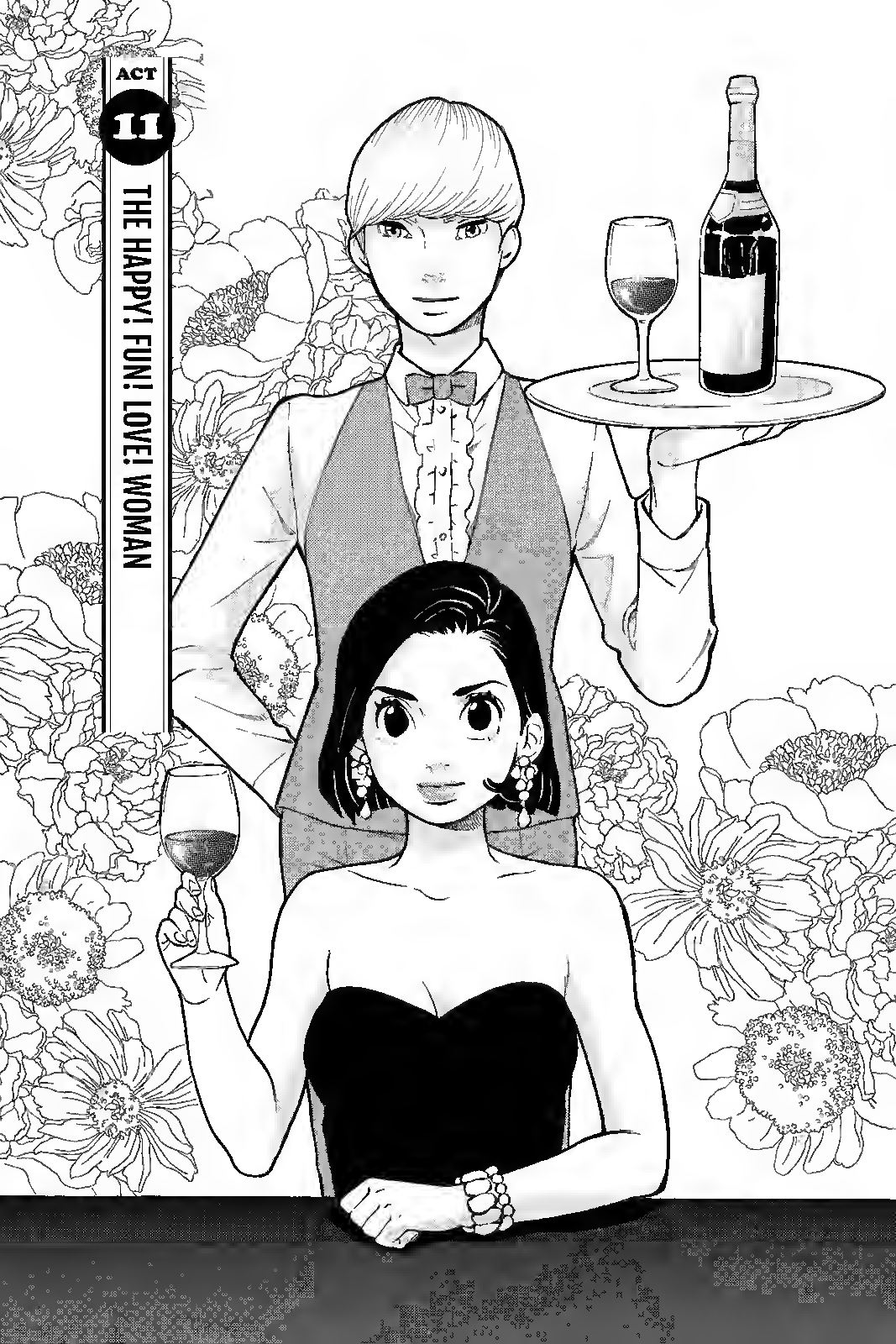
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... ARE YOU GOING TO RUN AWAY?
FROM YOUR JOB?
FROM HIM?
YEAH, I'M GONNA RUN AWAY.
FROM MY JOB.
FROM THAT YOUNG MAN WHO KEEPS WAVING COLD LOGIC IN MY FACE.

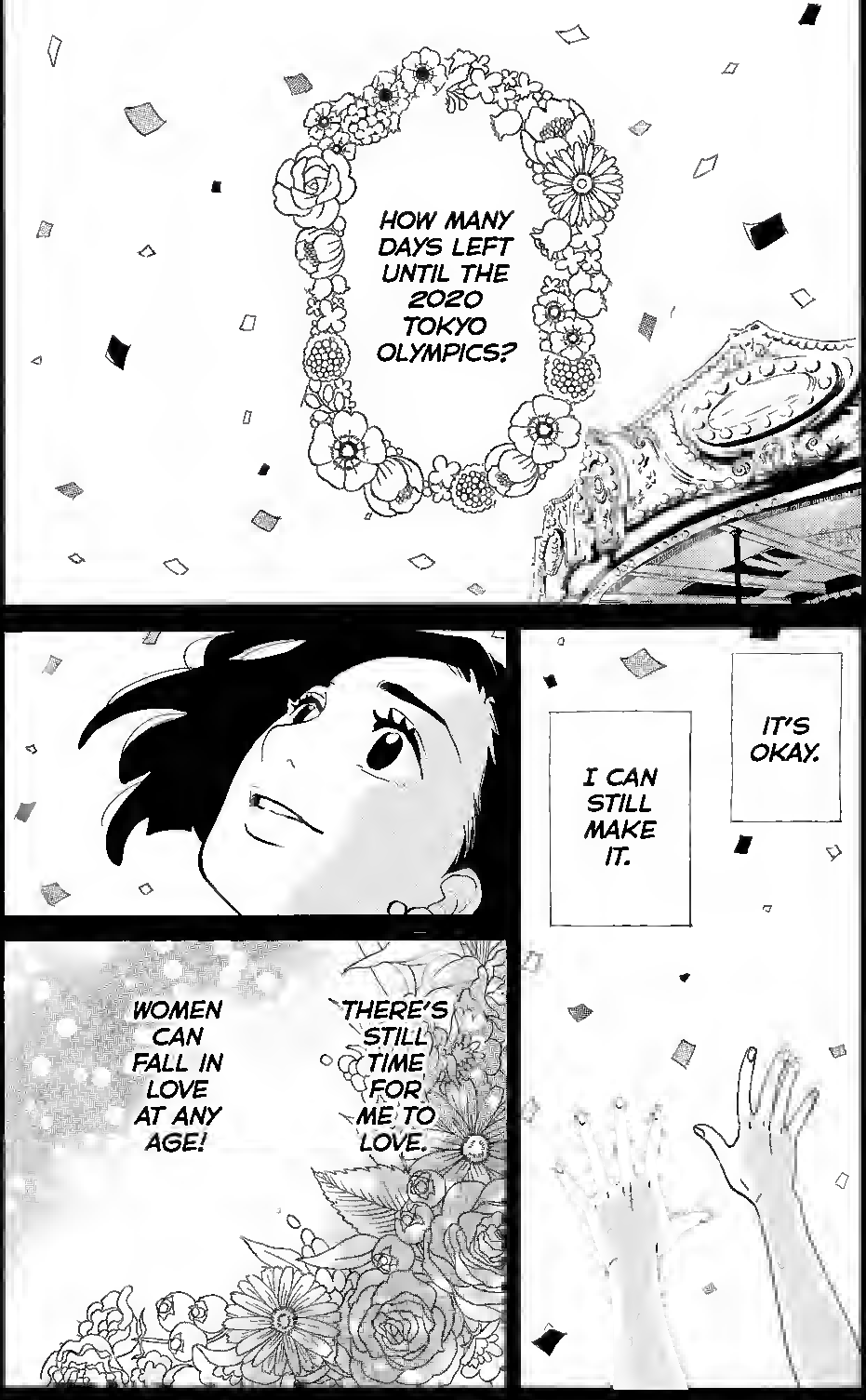
...AND IMMERSE MYSELF IN PLEASURE.
I'LL AVERT MY EYES...
FROM INESCAPABLE REALITY.
BECAUSE I'M JUST PLAIN TIRED.
I'LL RUN AWAY FROM ALL THOSE LONELY NIGHTS.


I DON'T CARE IF IT'S A LIE. I JUST WANT SOMEONE TO BE NICE TO ME.
IN ORDER TO LIVE TOMOR-ROW...
...TODAY, WE FOCUS ONLY ON WHAT IS BEFORE OUR EYES.
POP
YAY! YAY! IT'S 2020! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THE TOKYO OLYMPICS WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT?
RINKO, WHAT IF, WHAT IF YOU DO THAT...
...AND THEY GET HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT?
BANNER: 2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS

I'LL RUN AWAY.
LIKE THEY SAY, DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR.


I'LL RUN... AND RUN...
...AND I WON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT WHAT I'M RUNNING TOWARDS FOR NOW.


ACT
11
THE HAPPY! FUN! LOVE! WOMAN


HOW MANY DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE 2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS?
I CAN STILL MAKE IT.
IT'S OKAY.
WOMEN CAN FALL IN LOVE AT ANY AGE!
THERE'S STILL TIME FOR ME TO LOVE.

...SO MAYBE THERE IS A TIME LIMIT, BUT I DON'T WANT THIS MIRACULOUS, RARE ENCOUNTER I'VE GOT...

NO, WAIT. WE WANT TO FALL IN "LOVE" AS PART OF OUR END GOAL OF GETTING MARRIED...

AND THERE'S NO TIME LIMIT ON "LOVE", SO...

WE'RE WORRIED BECAUSE OF THE LIMIT CALLED "MARRIAGE"...

...THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE, TO GO TO WASTE!!

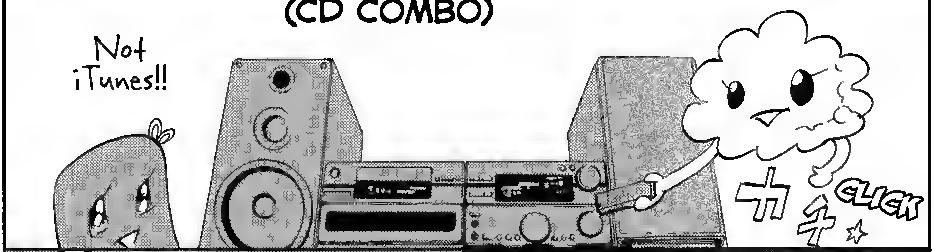
F"

BOOM

THE DRESS FROM THAT NIGHT

キィ
CREAK
スー
FWISH
RMB
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
ペコ
BOW
OH...
SAPPHIRE
DRY GIN

RINKO'S CD PLAYER SWITCH ON!!
(CD COMBO)

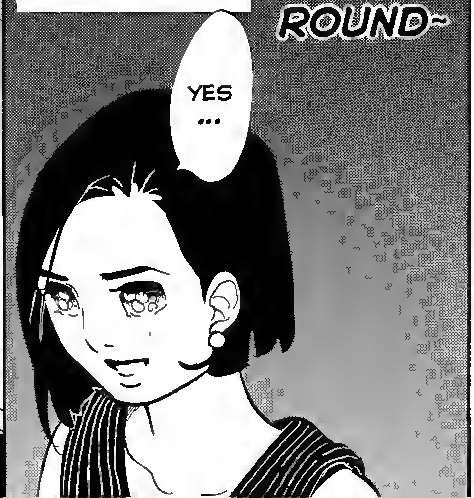


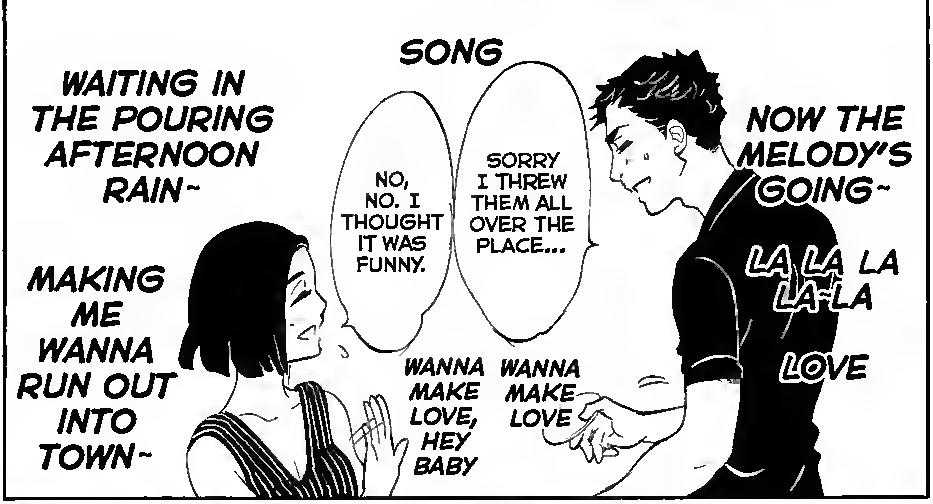
TOSHINOBU KUBOTA WITH NAOMI CAMPBELL

LA LA LA LOVE SONG

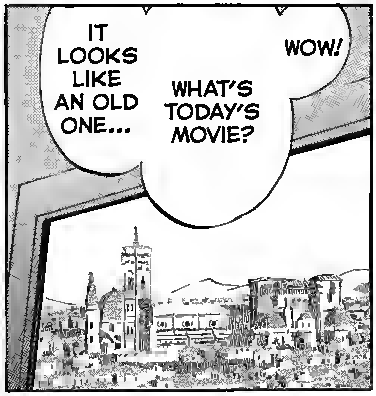
1996

SPIN, SPIN MERRY-GO-ROUND~




SONG
WAITING IN THE POURING AFTERNOON RAIN~
MAKING ME WANNA RUN OUT INTO TOWN~
NO, NO. I THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY.
SORRY I THREW THEM ALL OVER THE PLACE...
WANNA MAKE LOVE, HEY BABY
WANNA MAKE LOVE
NOW THE MELODY'S GOING~
LA LA LA LA~LA
LOVE

OH, BUT IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'D RATHER SEE, I'LL CHANGE IT RIGHT--
NO, THIS IS FINE.
SO I WENT WITH THE CLASSIC "SINGING IN THE RAIN."
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE GETTING SOME RAIN TODAY...

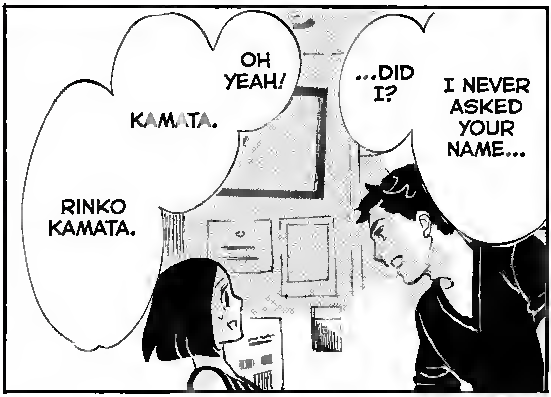

WOW!
WHAT'S TODAY'S MOVIE?
IT LOOKS LIKE AN OLD ONE...

ALL RIGHT!
SMILE
WELL, I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE AGAIN...
OH, WHAT'LL YOU HAVE TO DRINK?
REALLY? THEN I'LL START IT OVER...
I'M A LITTLE SLACK ON MY REAL "CLASSIC" MOVIE HOME-WORK...
I'VE NEVER REALLY SAT DOWN AND WATCHED THIS ONE...

POP
AND I THINK I'LL HAVE ANOTHER GREEN BEER!
IT'S A LITTLE ON THE SWEET SIDE, BUT IT'S GOOD.
IT'S SO PRETTY !!
WOW!
THUNK
HERE YOU ARE!
THEN I'LL MAKE YOU ONE OF MY ORIGINALS BASED ON THIS MOVIE...
RATTLE
RATTLE
CHEERS!
CLINK
FOR WORK?
...SO I WAS THINKING I MIGHT STUDY AT YOUR BAR...
I LOVE MOVIES, AND I HAVE TO WATCH THEM FOR WORK, BUT I'M SO BUSY I DON'T OFTEN GET THE CHANCE...
BOY...
I'M SO GLAD YOU DECIDED TO COME BY AGAIN SO SOON.
OH, NO!
I HAD A LOT OF FUN THE OTHER DAY.

WHICH MEANS ...?
OH, FINE ...
I WORK IN WEB SERIES AND THAT SORT OF THING...
I'M ONE OF THOSE STRUGGLING SCREENWRITERS...
BUT I'VE BASICALLY BEEN HUNG OUT TO DRY...
MUTTER
GLITTER
I KNOW THIS IS A LITTLE RUDE TO ASK...
...BUT DO YOU WORK IN MOVIES?
NO, NO! NOTHING THAT IMPRESSIVE!
I ONLY DREAM OF WORKING IN MOVIES!
BOY, HE'S NOT SHY ABOUT BEING HAPPY ...
I thought for sure he'd say "oh, people in the industry come here all the time."
WOW! WOW!
EEK!
THAT'S SO COOL !!
SPARKLE
WHAT?! WOW!
YOU'RE A WRITER ?!
BEAM
WOW!
I'D LOVE TO WATCH YOUR STUFF!
PLEASE TELL ME THE NAME OF THE SERIES!
OH... YEAH ...
RIGHT NOW... UM...
HMM?
I DON'T KNOW IF... ANY OF MY STUFF IS AVAILABLE NOW...
WHAT DO YOU WRITE?
SAD STORIES? MYSTERIES?
OR MAYBE HORROR ?
OH, JUST YOUR STANDARD ROMANTIC COMEDIES ...

...DOWN ON MY LUCK?
BE-CAUSE I'M A LITTLE ...
B-
HUH?
WHY?!
REALLY ?!
HUH ?!


OH YEAH!
KAMATA.
RINKO KAMATA.
...DID I?
I NEVER ASKED YOUR NAME...

HUH?!
YOUR NAME.
FWIP

LET'S GO OUT FOR DINNER!!

RINKO.
YES?!

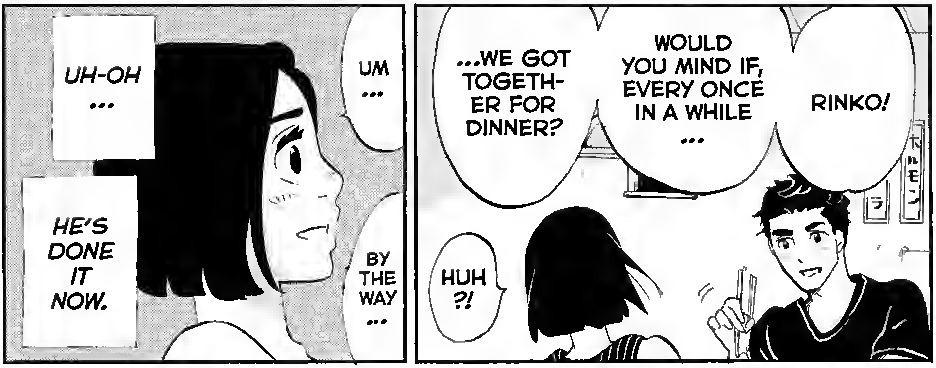
ジュー
SIZZLE
KARA-CHAN
WHEN YOU'RE DEPRESSED, MEAT'S THE CURE FOR WHAT AILS YOU!!
RINKO !!
HERE!
IT'S READY!
LET'S EAT!!
O-
OKAY!
D-
DON'T MIND IF I DO!
YEAH, CHOW DOWN !!
CLACK
CLACK

I COME HERE TO EAT ALL THE TIME BY MYSELF!!
THIS PLACE APPEARED IN THE MOVIE "BULGOGI," SO!!
REALLY?!
CHOMP CHOMP
ISN'T IT?! ISN'T IT GREAT?!
IT'S GREAT!
CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP
WHEN I GRADUATED COLLEGE, I WAS HIRED THERE IN THE SALES DEPARTMENT...
WHAT?!
IN SALES FOR SAPPERO BEER.
YES.
Never would've guessed.
YOU WORKED... IN AN OFFICE?
...ANY TIME I SCREWED UP AT WORK, I WOULD COME HERE TO EAT MEAT.
BACK WHEN I WORKED IN AN OFFICE...
THE OLDER WE GET, THE MORE WE JUST SPIN OUR WHEELS...
CHARACTERS LIKE ME ARE JUST NO GOOD...
...AND THE NEWER HIRES STARTED LEAVING ME IN THE DUST.
BUT BY AROUND MY THIRD YEAR, I KIND OF JUST HIT A WALL...
...AND THAT WAS ALL IT TOOK TO RAKE IN THE CONTRACTS.
FOR MY FIRST YEAR OR TWO, EVERYONE'D SAY, "YOU'RE YOUNG AND YOU'VE GOT A LOTTA PEP!"

SO I OPENED THE BAR.
...WITH MY FAVORITE MOVIE.
I HAD GOTTEN THE IDEA I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING...
SO I MULLED IT OVER...AND MULLED IT OVER...
...AND FINALLY JUST UP AND QUIT!
BUT YOU ONLY GET ONE SHOT AT LIFE.
...BARELY ENOUGH TO KEEP THE LIGHTS ON.
IT'S NOT LIKE I MAKE A LOT OF MONEY WITH IT...
PLUS, IT DID LEAD TO ME MEETING YOU, RINKO.
SO I FIGURED I'D BE HAPPIER DOING WHAT I LOVED...

THAT'S SO COOL!
WOW!
BUT I'M NOT REALLY AN ETHICAL PERSON AT ALL, THOUGH ...
OH! WELL ...
OR THE ONE FOR "WHEEL"?
THE ONE FOR "COLD"?
WHICH CHARACTER DO YOU USE TO WRITE THE "RIN" IN YOUR NAME ANYWAY?
IT'S ACTUALLY THE CHARACTER FROM "ETHICS."
BA-DUMP
ど"キ"h

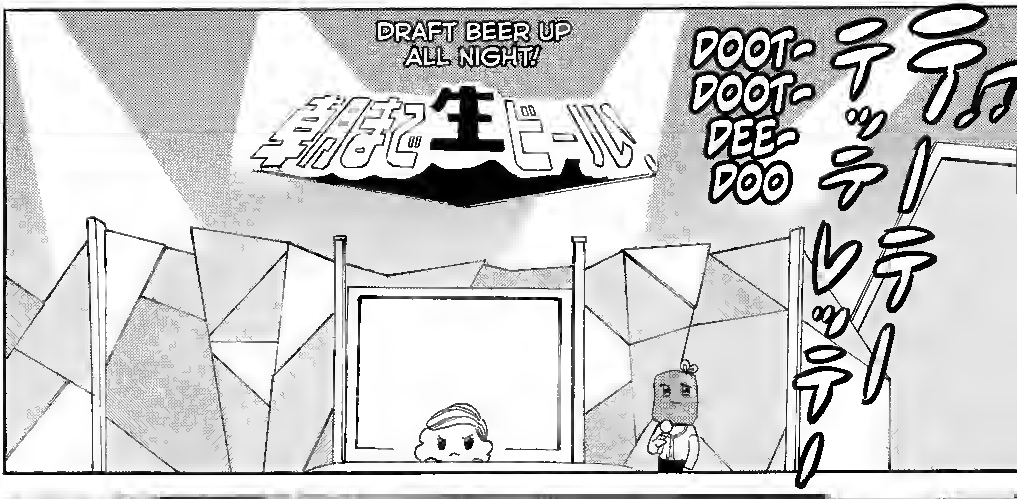
Note: The character used to write the "Rin" in Rinko in Japanese is the same one used in the word "rinri," which is "ethics."

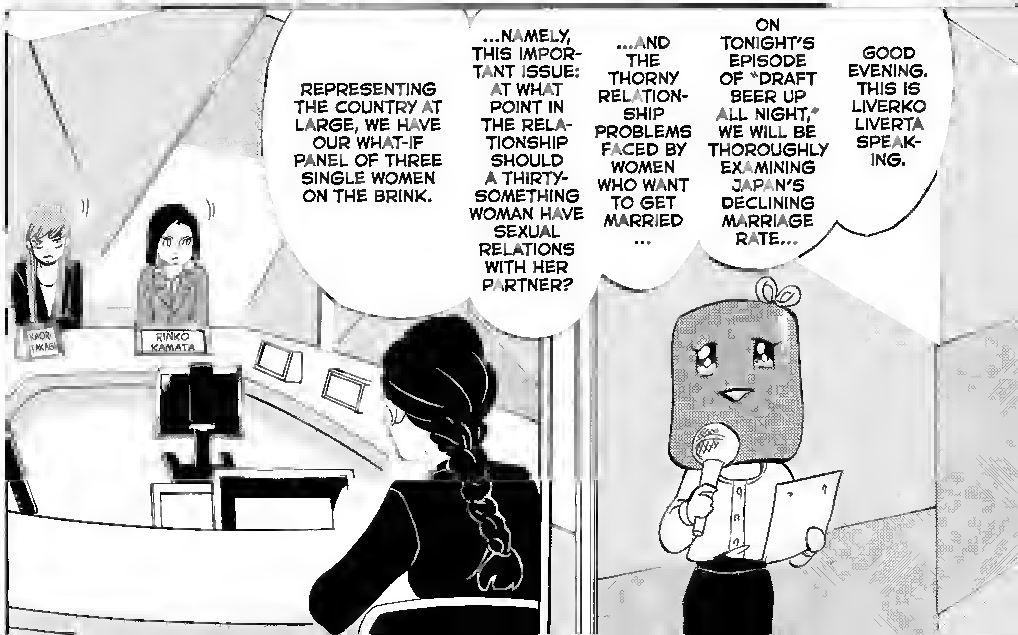


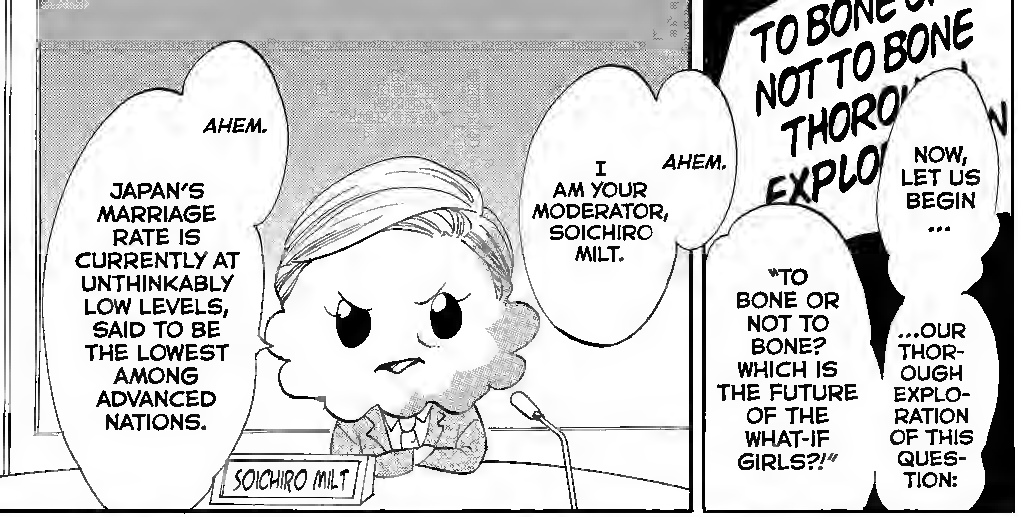
I'M SINGLE! WANNA GET MARRIED?!
SHUNK

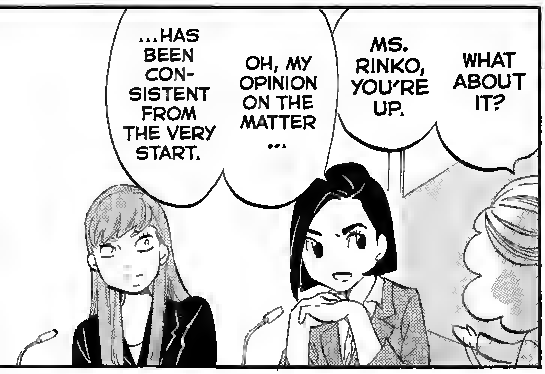
酒処
PUB
BOOM
KIDDING! ONLY KIDDING!
HA! HA! HA!
THUNK
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
IT'S A PER-FECT ...
... FOUR ALARM-ER!!
HERE'S THREE TALL GLASSES OF DRAFT BEER TO GET US CAUGHT UP!!
SO ?!
DID YOU BANG HIM ?!
NOT AS OF YET!

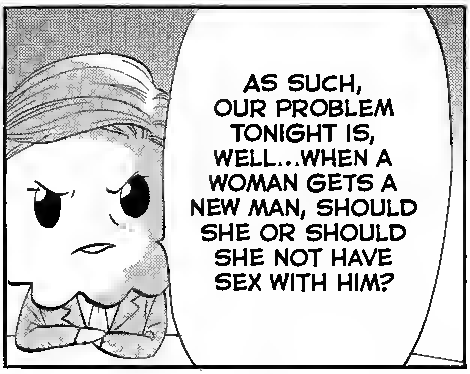
ME EITHER!
I JUST DON'T KNOW! AT THIS AGE!
OR SHOULD I NOT?!
WHEN SHOULD WE DO IT?!
THAT'S WHAT THIS FOUR-ALARMER'S FOR, STUPID!!
WE'D BETTER DEBATE IT!!
SO?
WHEN ARE YOU GONNA?
POPS! THE USUAL!
OH, REALLY?


DRAFT BEER UP ALL NIGHT!
DOOT-DOOT-DEE-DOO


GOOD EVENING. THIS IS LIVERKO LIVERTA SPEAKING.
ON TONIGHT'S EPISODE OF "DRAFT BEER UP ALL NIGHT," WE WILL BE THOROUGHLY EXAMINING JAPAN'S DECLINING MARRIAGE RATE...
...AND THE THORNY RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN WHO WANT TO GET MARRIED ...
...NAMELY, THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE: AT WHAT POINT IN THE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD A THIRTY-SOMETHING WOMAN HAVE SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH HER PARTNER?
REPRESENTING THE COUNTRY AT LARGE, WE HAVE OUR WHAT-IF PANEL OF THREE SINGLE WOMEN ON THE BRINK.
RINKO KAMATA

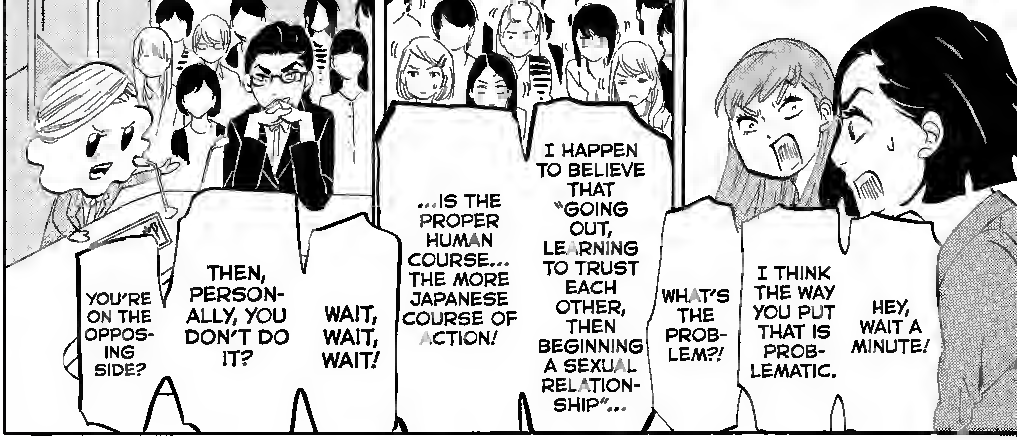

AHEM.
JAPAN'S MARRIAGE RATE IS CURRENTLY AT UNTHINKABLY LOW LEVELS, SAID TO BE THE LOWEST AMONG ADVANCED NATIONS.
AHEM.
I AM YOUR MODERATOR, SOICHIRO MILT.
SOICHIRO MILT
"TO BONE OR NOT TO BONE? WHICH IS THE FUTURE OF THE WHAT-IF GIRLS?!"
NOW, LET US BEGIN ...
...OUR THOROUGH EXPLORATION OF THIS QUESTION:

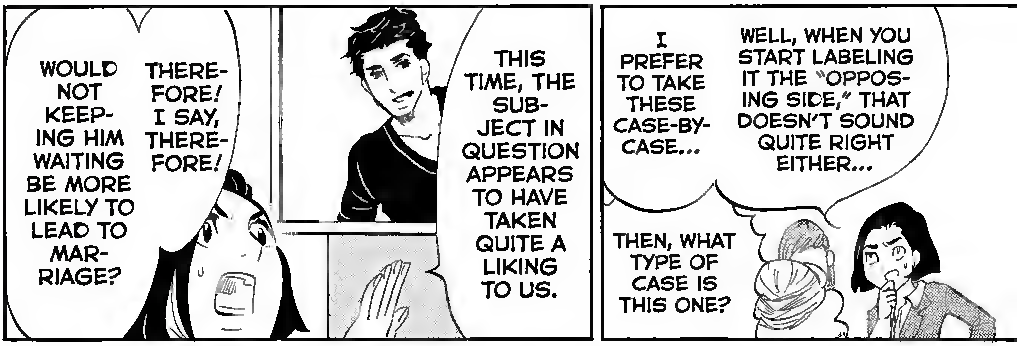

...HAS BEEN CONSISTENT FROM THE VERY START.
OH, MY OPINION ON THE MATTER ...
MS. RINKO, YOU'RE UP.
WHAT ABOUT IT?


AS SUCH, OUR PROBLEM TONIGHT IS, WELL...WHEN A WOMAN GETS A NEW MAN, SHOULD SHE OR SHOULD SHE NOT HAVE SEX WITH HIM?

WHAT? THEN, MS. KAORI, SHOULD I TAKE IT THAT YOU'RE THE TYPE TO SLIP YOUR MAN A LITTLE ACTION?
AND WHY NOT?
THAT IS THE CONSENSUS OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WHAM

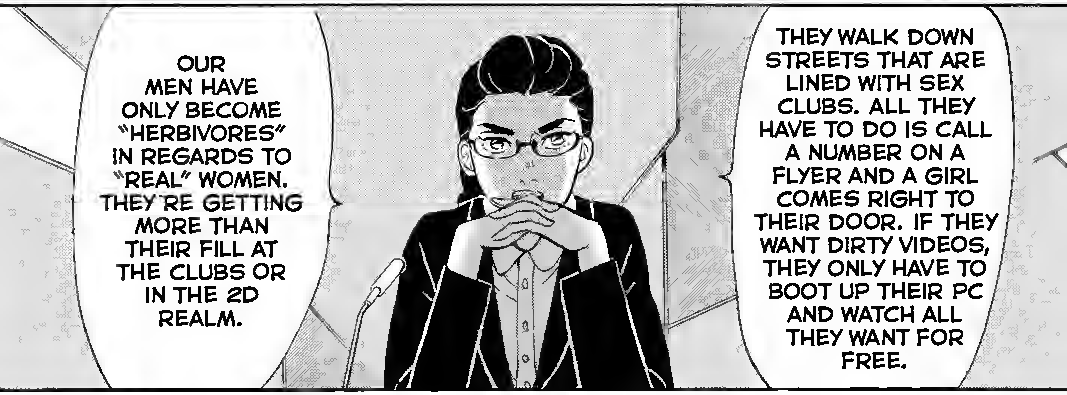
WAIT A SECOND. AREN'T WE TOO OLD TO BE DOING ANYTHING SO TIME-CONSUMING?
WITHOUT THAT, I DON'T DO IT AT ALL. THAT IS THE RULE I LIKE TO FOLLOW IN MY RELATIONSHIPS.
YOU MUST BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STRONG CONSENT OF BOTH PARTIES.
I BELIEVE IN WHAT I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT CALL A THOROUGH PROPOSAL?

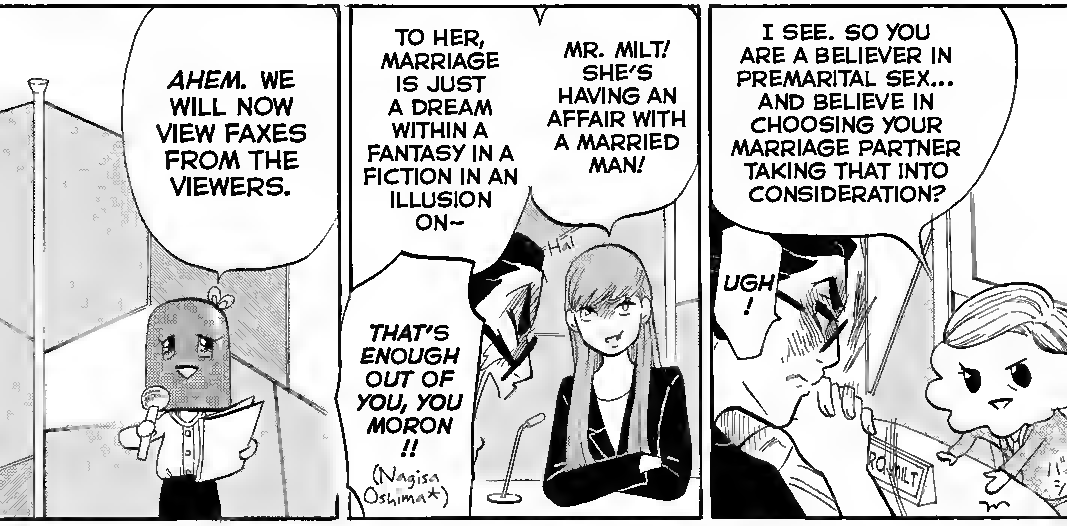

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
I THINK THE WAY YOU PUT THAT IS PROBLEMATIC.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?!
I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE THAT "GOING OUT, LEARNING TO TRUST EACH OTHER, THEN BEGINNING A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP"...
...IS THE PROPER HUMAN COURSE... THE MORE JAPANESE COURSE OF ACTION!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!
THEN, PERSONALLY, YOU DON'T DO IT?
YOU'RE ON THE OPPOSING SIDE?


THIS TIME, THE SUBJECT IN QUESTION APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN QUITE A LIKING TO US.
THEREFORE! I SAY, THEREFORE!
WOULD NOT KEEPING HIM WAITING BE MORE LIKELY TO LEAD TO MARRIAGE?
WELL, WHEN YOU START LABELING IT THE "OPPOSING SIDE," THAT DOESN'T SOUND QUITE RIGHT EITHER...
I PREFER TO TAKE THESE CASE-BY-CASE...
THEN, WHAT TYPE OF CASE IS THIS ONE?

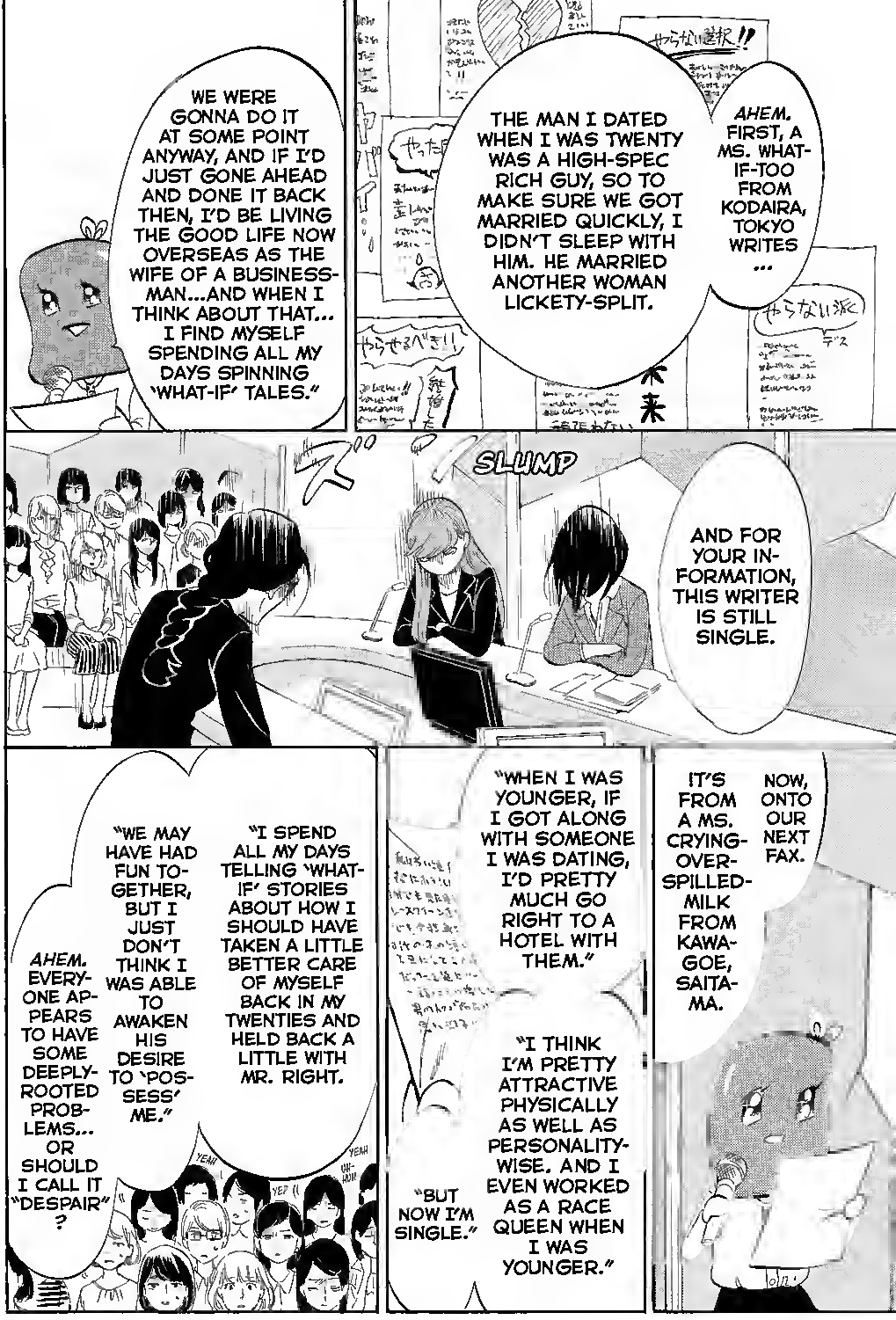
I THINK YOU'RE TAKING AN OVERLY OPTIMISTIC VIEW.
DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION ON THE MATTER, MS. KOYUKI?
WELL, HAVING SAT HERE AND LISTENED TO THESE TWO...
...I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE... RINKO, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT HOW STRANGE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING REALLY SOUNDS?
HUH? WHAT DOES?

JAPANESE MEN ARE NOT, AT THE MOMENT, SO STARVED FOR SEX THAT THEY WILL MARRY A WOMAN JUST BECAUSE SHE WON'T PUT OUT FOR HIM.
PLEASE, HOLD YOUR COMMENTS!
MS. KOYUK IS SPEAKING NOW.
THAT'S RIGHT! AND IF YOU DID GET MARRIED, WHAT IF THE GUY TURNS OUT TO BE A PERVERT?
WHAP
I BELIEVE THEY ARE COMPLETELY SEPARATE MATTERS.
WELL, ON THE WHOLE MATTER OF WHETHER HAVING SEX OR NOT LEADS TO MARRIAGE... TO BE HONEST, I DON'T THINK THAT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.


OUR MEN HAVE ONLY BECOME "HERBIVORES" IN REGARDS TO "REAL" WOMEN. THEY'RE GETTING MORE THAN THEIR FILL AT THE CLUBS OR IN THE 2D REALM.
THEY WALK DOWN STREETS THAT ARE LINED WITH SEX CLUBS. ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS CALL A NUMBER ON A FLYER AND A GIRL COMES RIGHT TO THEIR DOOR. IF THEY WANT DIRTY VIDEOS, THEY ONLY HAVE TO BOOT UP THEIR PC AND WATCH ALL THEY WANT FOR FREE.

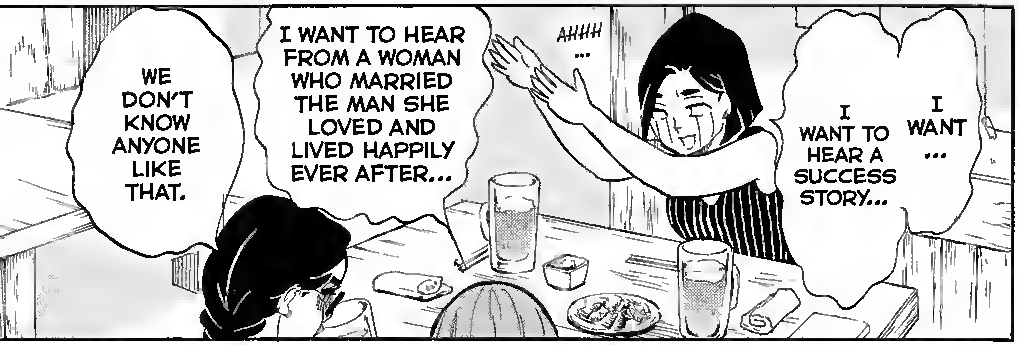

AHEM. WE WILL NOW VIEW FAXES FROM THE VIEWERS.
TO HER, MARRIAGE IS JUST A DREAM WITHIN A FANTASY IN A FICTION IN AN ILLUSION ON~
MR. MILT! SHE'S HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH A MARRIED MAN!
THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU, YOU MORON !!
(Nagisa Oshima*)
I SEE. SO YOU ARE A BELIEVER IN PREMARITAL SEX... AND BELIEVE IN CHOOSING YOUR MARRIAGE PARTNER TAKING THAT INTO CONSIDERATION?
UGH !

*a famous Japanese film director who was also famous for his angry outbursts in which he called people idiots.

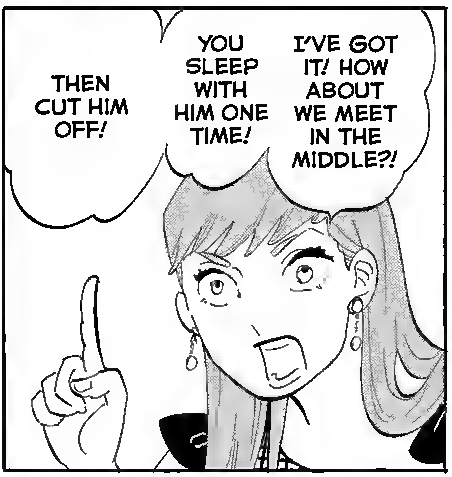

WE WERE GONNA DO IT AT SOME POINT ANYWAY, AND IF I'D JUST GONE AHEAD AND DONE IT BACK THEN, I'D BE LIVING THE GOOD LIFE NOW OVERSEAS AS THE WIFE OF A BUSINESS-MAN...AND WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT... I FIND MYSELF SPENDING ALL MY DAYS SPINNING 'WHAT-IF' TALES."
やらない選択!!
やった!!
やるべき!!
やらない派!
デス
未来
THE MAN I DATED WHEN I WAS TWENTY WAS A HIGH-SPEC RICH GUY, SO TO MAKE SURE WE GOT MARRIED QUICKLY, I DIDN'T SLEEP WITH HIM. HE MARRIED ANOTHER WOMAN LICKETY-SPLIT.
AHEM. FIRST, A MS. WHAT-IF-TOO FROM KODAIRA, TOKYO WRITES ...
SLUMP
AND FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THIS WRITER IS STILL SINGLE.
NOW, ONTO OUR NEXT FAX.
IT'S FROM A MS. CRYING-OVER-SPILLED-MILK FROM KAWAGOE, SAITAMA.
"WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, IF I GOT ALONG WITH SOMEONE I WAS DATING, I'D PRETTY MUCH GO RIGHT TO A HOTEL WITH THEM."
"I THINK I'M PRETTY ATTRACTIVE PHYSICALLY AS WELL AS PERSONALITY-WISE. AND I EVEN WORKED AS A RACE QUEEN WHEN I WAS YOUNGER."
"BUT NOW I'M SINGLE."
"I SPEND ALL MY DAYS TELLING 'WHAT-IF' STORIES ABOUT HOW I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A LITTLE BETTER CARE OF MYSELF BACK IN MY TWENTIES AND HELD BACK A LITTLE WITH MR. RIGHT.
"WE MAY HAVE HAD FUN TOGETHER, BUT I JUST DON'T THINK I WAS ABLE TO AWAKEN HIS DESIRE TO 'POSSESS' ME."
AHEM. EVERYONE APPEARS TO HAVE SOME DEEPLY-ROOTED PROBLEMS... OR SHOULD I CALL IT "DESPAIR"?
YEAH!
YEP!
YEAH OH-JOU!

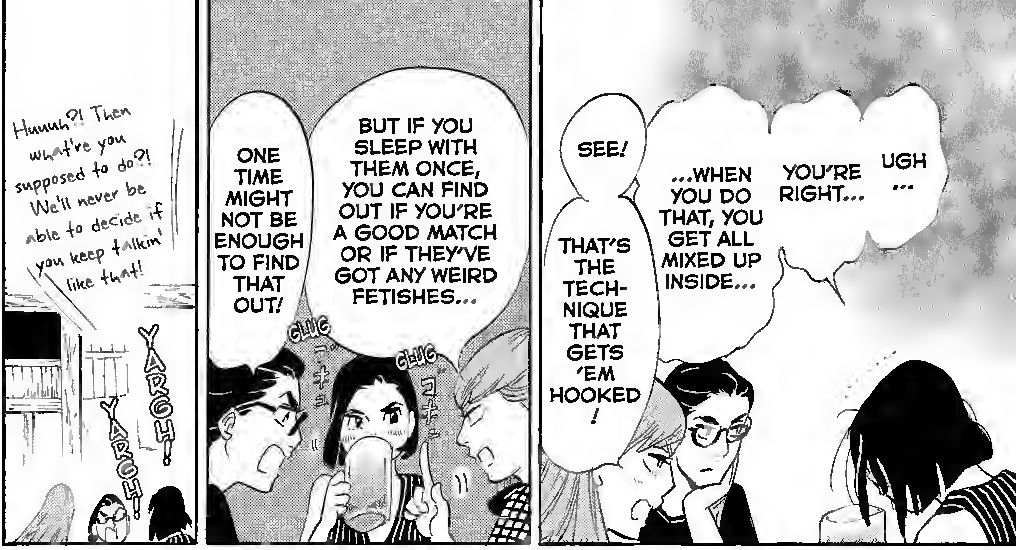
I DON'T KNOW...

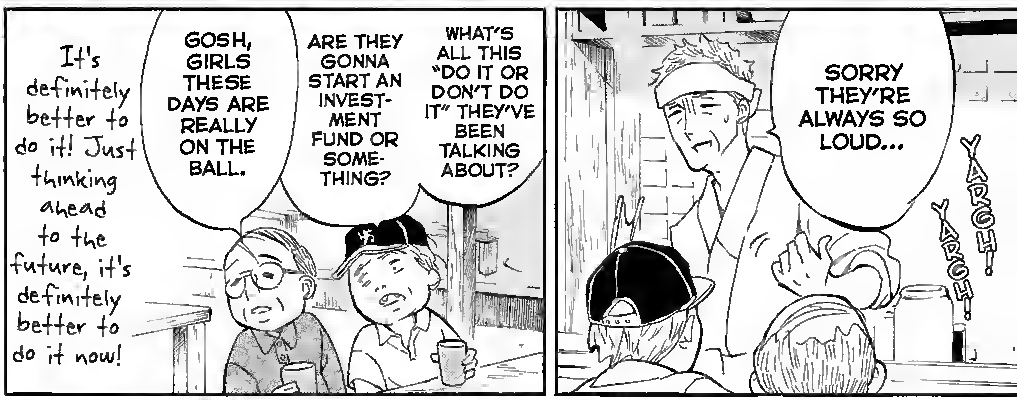
THEN WHAT THE HELL'M I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
HHAM


WE DON'T KNOW ANYONE LIKE THAT.
I WANT TO HEAR FROM A WOMAN WHO MARRIED THE MAN SHE LOVED AND LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER...
AHHH...
I WANT TO HEAR A SUCCESS STORY...
I WANT...

SLEEP WITH HIM ONCE, THEN STOP.


THEN CUT HIM OFF!
YOU SLEEP WITH HIM ONE TIME!
I'VE GOT IT! HOW ABOUT WE MEET IN THE MIDDLE?!


Hmmm?! Then what're you supposed to do?! We'll never be able to decide if you keep talkin' like that!
YAROU!
YAROU!
ONE TIME MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH TO FIND THAT OUT!
BUT IF YOU SLEEP WITH THEM ONCE, YOU CAN FIND OUT IF YOU'RE A GOOD MATCH OR IF THEY'VE GOT ANY WEIRD FETISHES...
GUNG
GUNG
SEE!
THAT'S THE TECH-NIQUE THAT GETS 'EM HOOKED!
...WHEN YOU DO THAT, YOU GET ALL MIXED UP INSIDE...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
UGH...

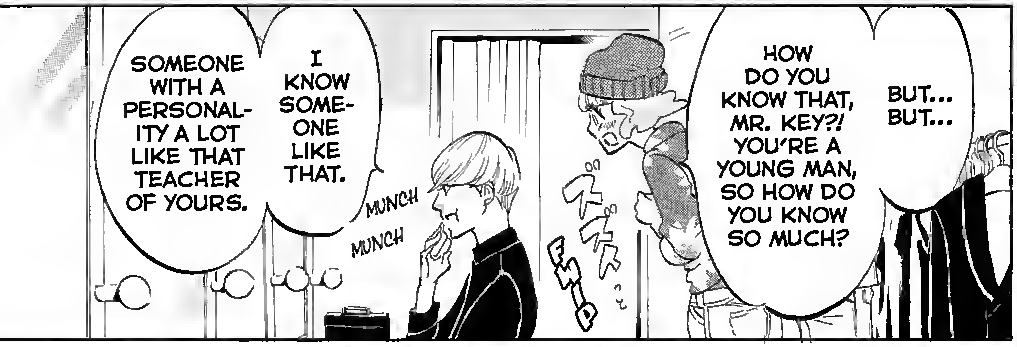

It's definitely better to do it! Just thinking ahead to the future, it's definitely better to do it now!
GOSH, GIRLS THESE DAYS ARE REALLY ON THE BALL.
ARE THEY GONNA START AN INVEST-MENT FUND OR SOME-THING?
WHAT'S ALL THIS "DO IT OR DON'T DO IT" THEY'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT?
SORRY THEY'RE ALWAYS SO LOUD...
YAROU!
YAROU!

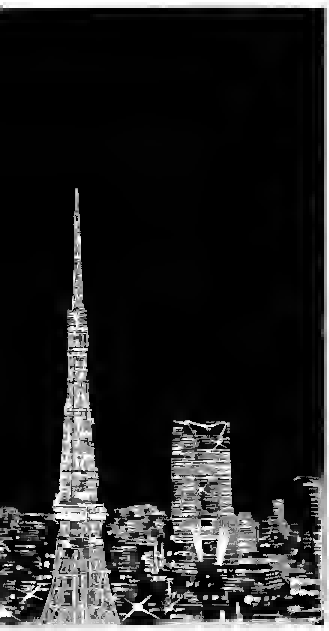
BWA HA HA HA!
RATTLE
CLACK

TURN
BWAHAHA!
BWAHAHA!
studio 24
MR. KEY! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
PLEASE HEAD TO THE MAKEUP ROOM!
HERE, KEY! YOUR DINNER!!
IT'S GRILL-BON'S BEEF FILLET CUTLET SAND-WICH!!
OHHH. THANK YOU.
I'LL EAT IT RIGHT NOW.
MAMI FLEW ACROSS TOWN IN A TAXI TO GET IT.
BECAUSE TONIGHT'S FILMING WILL PROB-ABLY TAKE QUITE A WHILE...

THAT TEACHER OF YOURS SPENDS EVERY NIGHT DRINKING INSTEAD OF WORKING, YOU KNOW.
HUH?!
...EH?
YOUR TEACH-ER...
NO, NO! MY TEACHER TAUGHT ME ABOUT THIS FILLET CUTLET SANDWICH!
THAT'S AWFULLY CONSID-ERATE OF YOU.
THANK YOU, MAMI.
SHE MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO WRITE LIKE SHE USED TO.
EVER.
...IN THEIR CAREER ...
...AND PROBABLY LOVE LIFE AS WELL.
...THEY STOP IN PLACE...
WHEN WOMEN GET PAST THIRTY, THEY RUN OUT OF BREATH ...
THAT'S PART OF IT, BUT I THINK THE BIGGER PORTION IS JUST AGE.
...MY FAULT?
IS THAT ...
That was great.

LIKE THEY HIT AN AIR POCKET IN THEIR LIFE?
YOU'RE GOOD WITH METAPHORS.
YOU DEFINITELY HAVE TALENT.

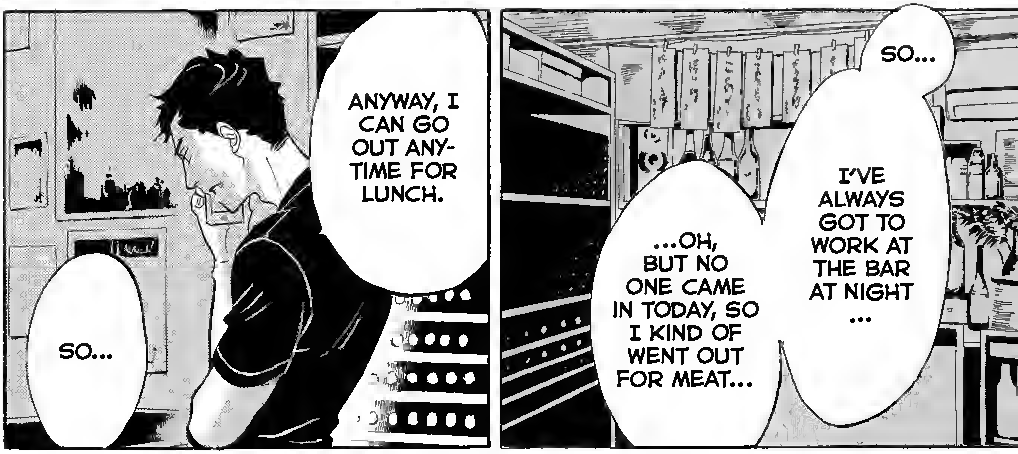

BUT... BUT...
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, MR. KEY?! YOU'RE A YOUNG MAN, SO HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH?
I KNOW SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
SOMEONE WITH A PERSONALITY A LOT LIKE THAT TEACHER OF YOURS.
MUNCH MUNCH



AH! YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING! I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE OLDER WOMAN!
AND YOU DON'T MISS MUCH, EITHER.
WE CAN EXPECT GREAT THINGS OUT OF YOU.
M-Mami...
Thanks for the food.
SO THIS IS AN OLDER WOMAN YOU LIKED?

NO.
AN EX-GIRLFRIEND?
HUUUH?!
AN OLDER WOMAN?!
...

HELLO? RINKO?
THANKS FOR COMING TODAY.
I'M SORRY. I WANTED TO PAY FOR THE FOOD, BUT WE ENDED UP SPLITTING IT...
ALL RIGHT!
WHUMP
BEEP
ピ
...


ANYWAY, I CAN GO OUT ANY-TIME FOR LUNCH.
SO...
SO...
I'VE ALWAYS GOT TO WORK AT THE BAR AT NIGHT ...
...OH, BUT NO ONE CAME IN TODAY, SO I KIND OF WENT OUT FOR MEAT...

...IF YOU'RE NOT BUSY...

HANDS-FREE MODE
...would you like to meet tomorrow?

THE WAY HE INVITED YOU WAS SO MANLY...
THAT'S GREAT! THAT'S GREAT!
Yep, not bad at all!
HE'S UPFRONT AND DIRECT!
ARGH! ISN'T HE?! ISN'T HE?! THE WAY HE INVITES ME PERSONALLY BY PHONE LEAVES SUCH A GOOD IMPRESSION!

BEEP
ピ

YES, LUNCH WILL BE FINE. I'M NOT TOO BUSY AT WORK AT THE MOMENT.
I CAN GO ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.
Really ?! Hooray !!
I'll text you the location later!!

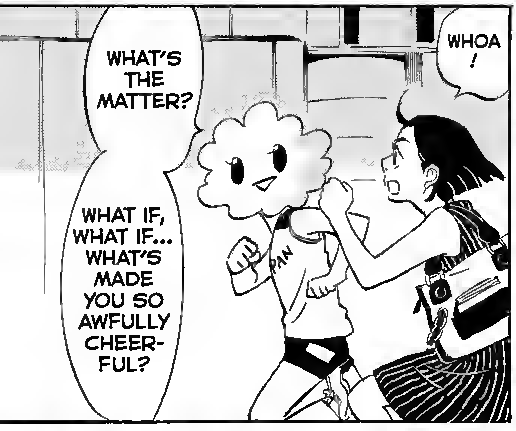
...
WHAT ARE YOU TWO GONNA DO TONIGHT?
ALL RIGHT! THEN I'M GONNA RUN HOME AND WASH MY UNDERCAR-RIAGE! FOR TOMORROW!
SLUMP
GRAB
RINKO, THIS GUY'S GREAT.
GO WITH HIM!
YEAH! I WISH I HAD A GUY THIS MANLY!
YOU THINK SO?! YOU REALLY THINK SO?!
...TO GET MARRIED AND HAVE A HAPPY FAMILY...
WE AT LEAST WANT ONE OF US...
YEAH ...
THAT SAID... WE AT LEAST WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY, RINKO...
HOW SAD...
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE JUST MISS BECK-AND-CALL AND THE MISTRESS.
OH!
Sorry for asking
IT'S TOO EARLY TO BE LOOK-ING DOWN ON US!!
WELL, GOOD-NIGHT!
OKAY! OKAY!
STEP OVER OUR BODIES ON THE WAY TO HAPPINESS, RINKO!!
THAT'S RIGHT!

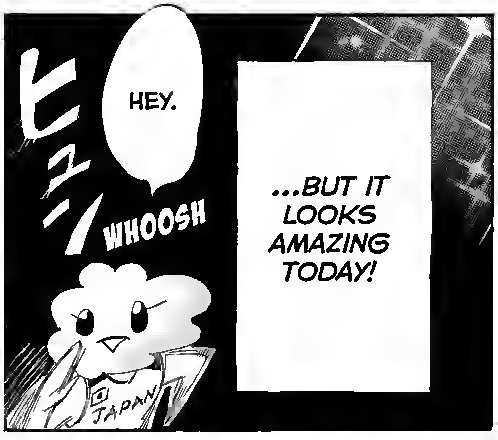
ZOOM
!
SHUT UP! CHEATER!
ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY?
HUH?
RARG!
WHOA!
THUNK
"I NEVER MEET ANYONE."
"THERE ARE NO GOOD MEN LEFT," I COMPLAINED FOR YEARS...
...SO I CAN'T BELIEVE I MET A GUY LIKE HIM AT THE LOCAL VIDEO RENTAL PLACE I JUST HAPPENED TO GO TO.
TOKYO'S THE BEST AFTER ALL!
THAT'S THE CITY WITH THE WORLD'S GREATEST POPULATION DENSITY FOR YOU!
THERE'S GUYS EVERYWHERE!!
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

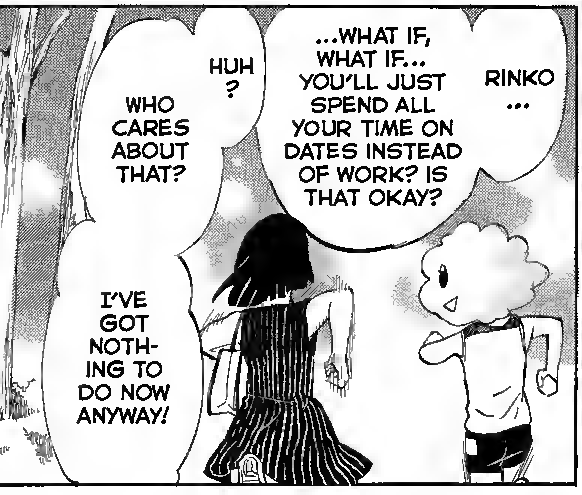
WOMEN FEEL SO MUCH BETTER THE INSTANT THEY FALL IN LOVE.
IT'S STRANGE.
MY HEAD IS FULL OF ♡.
...EVEN MY EYE-STRAIN! THEY VANISHED IN A FLASH!
THE TENSION IN MY SHOUL-DERS, MY HEAD-ACHE...
I FEEL AS LIGHT AS A FEATHER.
WHO CARES ABOUT WORK?
AHHH.

THIS OMOTE-SANDO AVENUE...
I ALWAYS PLODDED DOWN THIS STREET, EXHAUSTED.

I COULD RUN FOREVER.
BECAUSE IT FEELS GOOD!


WHOA!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... WHAT'S MADE YOU SO AWFULLY CHEERFUL?
JAPAN


HEY.
WHOOSH
...BUT IT LOOKS AMAZING TODAY!
JAPAN

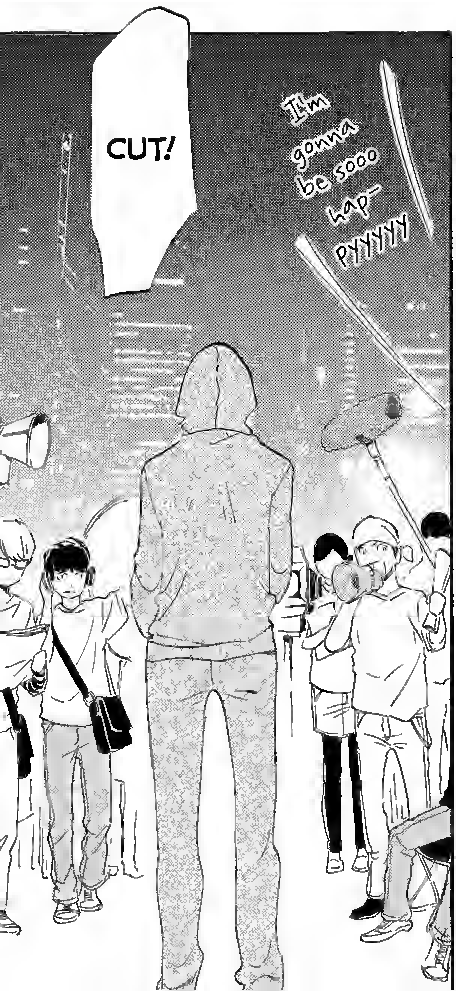

HUH?
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO NOW ANYWAY!
...WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU'LL JUST SPEND ALL YOUR TIME ON DATES INSTEAD OF WORK? IS THAT OKAY?
RINKO...

OH, IT'S FINE! ADULT WOMEN CAN RUN IN HEELS!
I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN RUN IN THOSE HEELS. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
VROOM

NOTHING TO DO? WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU'VE BEEN HUNG OUT TO DRY?
HUH?
WELL, MAYBE! AHA-HAHA!
BUT WHO CARES?
FROM NOW ON, I'LL LIVE ON LOVE!
IF I MARRY THIS GUY...
...I COULD HELP OUT AT THE BAR AND STUFF.
I COULD QUIT SCREEN-WRITING ALTO-GETHER ...
...AND AFTER WE GOT MARRIED, I COULD JUST GET AN EASY PART-TIME JOB.
YEAH. THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY GOOD LIFE ANYWAY.
A HAPPY WOMAN'S LIFE.
I SEE.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU'RE RUNNING TOWARDS A HAPPY WOMAN'S LIFE RIGHT NOW?
THAT'S RIGHT!! AS FAST AS MY LEGS CAN CARRY ME!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU'RE JUST RUNNING AWAY? ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT?

I'M RUNNING TOWARDS HAPPI-NESS!!
I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY!

I'LL BE HAPPY THIS TIME!


CUT!
I'm gonna be sooo hap-
pyyyy

HE'S GONNA MAKE ME HAPPY!

I'M ALREADY BEING CALLED
...
WE PICKED UP SOME STRANGE VOICE ON THAT ONE.
WHAT IS IT? A DRUNK?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A WOMAN'S VOICE.
...
TWITCH
LOOK AT THAT ...
DIREC-TOR!
WHOA!
HMM?
RINKO IS RUNNING FULL-STEAM AHEAD TOWARDS A HAPPY TOMOR-ROW! A HAPPY FUTURE! A HAPPY 2020-
WAVE バ
WAVE バ
GAH!

WAVE WAVE
TMP TMP TMP
I'LL GO.
HUH?!
FWIP
IT'S SOME DRUNK WOMAN! SOMEONE SHUT HER UP!
...
HMM? SHE LOOKS LIKE A CERTAIN SOME-ONE...
Couldn't be...
HEY.
WAKE UP. YOU WANT SOME-BODY TO STEAL YOUR WALLET?
NN-AH?
COME ON.
HOLD ONTO ME.
HUH ?!
WHOA!
IT'S YOU!
THE GUY I ONLY SLEPT WITH ONE TIME!!

GRAB
EEK!
HEY!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
LEGGO!
LET ME GO!
MAN-AGER!
SEND THE BUS AROUND HERE!
I'M GONNA PUT HER TO BED.
SHE'S HEAVY!
DIDN'T SHE LOOK LIKE RINKO?
IF THAT WAS HER, IT'D BE REALLY BAD FOR US...
...SO PRE-TEND WE DON'T KNOW HER!

WHUMP

YOU OKAY?
HEY.
SORRY FOR... THE TROU-BLE...
I DID ...?
OH...
O...
THROB
THROB
YOU FELL OVER DRUNK SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF OMOTE-SANDO.
...WHAT ARE...YOU DOING HERE?
HAVEN'T ...
...YOU BEEN WORKING?

I'M QUIT-TING WORK.
YES, THE FACT THAT YOU HAD A JOB TAKEN RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER YOU BY YOUR APPRENTICE IS CER-TAINLY–
...
WHAT? ANOTHER LECTURE?
I FOUND SOMEONE I WANT TO MARRY.

OH.
...
AND HE LOVES ME TOO.
THUNK
THUNK
GOOD FOR YOU.
...IS THE EMPTINESS OF BRAGGING ABOUT A DREAM MARRIAGE TO A GUY WHO SLEPT WITH ME AND CAST ME ASIDE.
THAT EMPTINESS I FEEL...

...IS GOING TO BE FILLED BY THIS MAN.
BUT THAT EMPTINESS...
HE'S THE ONE.
I FOUND HIM.

BOOM
I'M HAPPY~ I'M HAVING FUN~ I'M IN LOVE~
I FINALLY FOUND HIM~
THAT MUST BE IT~
DREAMS COME TRUE
HAPPY! FUN! LOVE!
1989
I JUST HAD TO BRING YOU HERE, RINKO.
DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE THE BOTANICAL GARDEN IN "GREEN CARD"?
WOW...
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A BOTANICAL GARDEN IN TOKYO...
KOISHIKAWA BOTANICAL GARDENS

BE-CAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE...
THE ACTRESS WHO PLAYED THE HERO-INE...
ANDIE MAC-DOWELL.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT FIRST OFF?
YES.
BUT I DON'T LOOK A THING LIKE HER!
NO, NO!
YOU'RE BEAUTI-FUL, RINKO.
YOU'RE JUST MY TYPE.
RINKO...
I LOVE YOU.
WILL YOU GIVE ME A CHANCE?

I...
BOW
ペコ
I LOOK FOR-WARD TO IT!
IF YOU'LL REALLY HAVE ME...
OKAY...
MY PLACE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
HOW ABOUT WE CELEBRATE WITH A GREEN BEER SALUTE?!
I'LL EVEN MAKE YOU MY SPECIAL UNI PASTA!!
WAVE
ブンブン
EEK!
I'M SO GLAD!
WOO-HOO!!
GRAB
ガシッ
W...

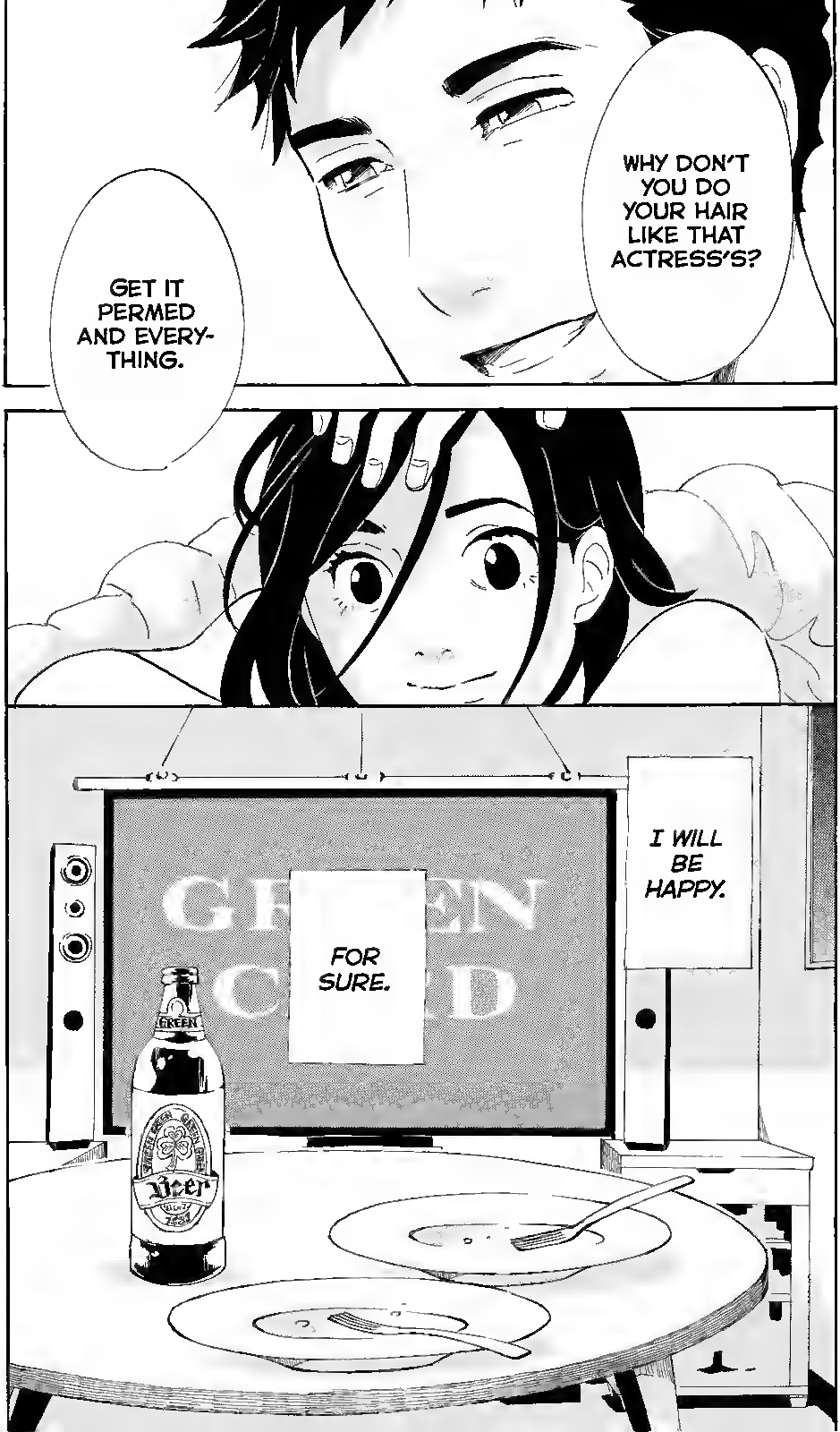
I'M IN LOVE WITH THIS GUY.
I'M HAVING FUN.
I'M HAPPY.
AND WATCHED THAT MOVIE AGAIN...
DRANK A LOT OF THAT BEER...
WE ATE THE MEAL HE PREPARED...
I MEAN, I LOVE HIM.
SO IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
BEFORE I KNEW IT, THE SUN HAD GONE DOWN.

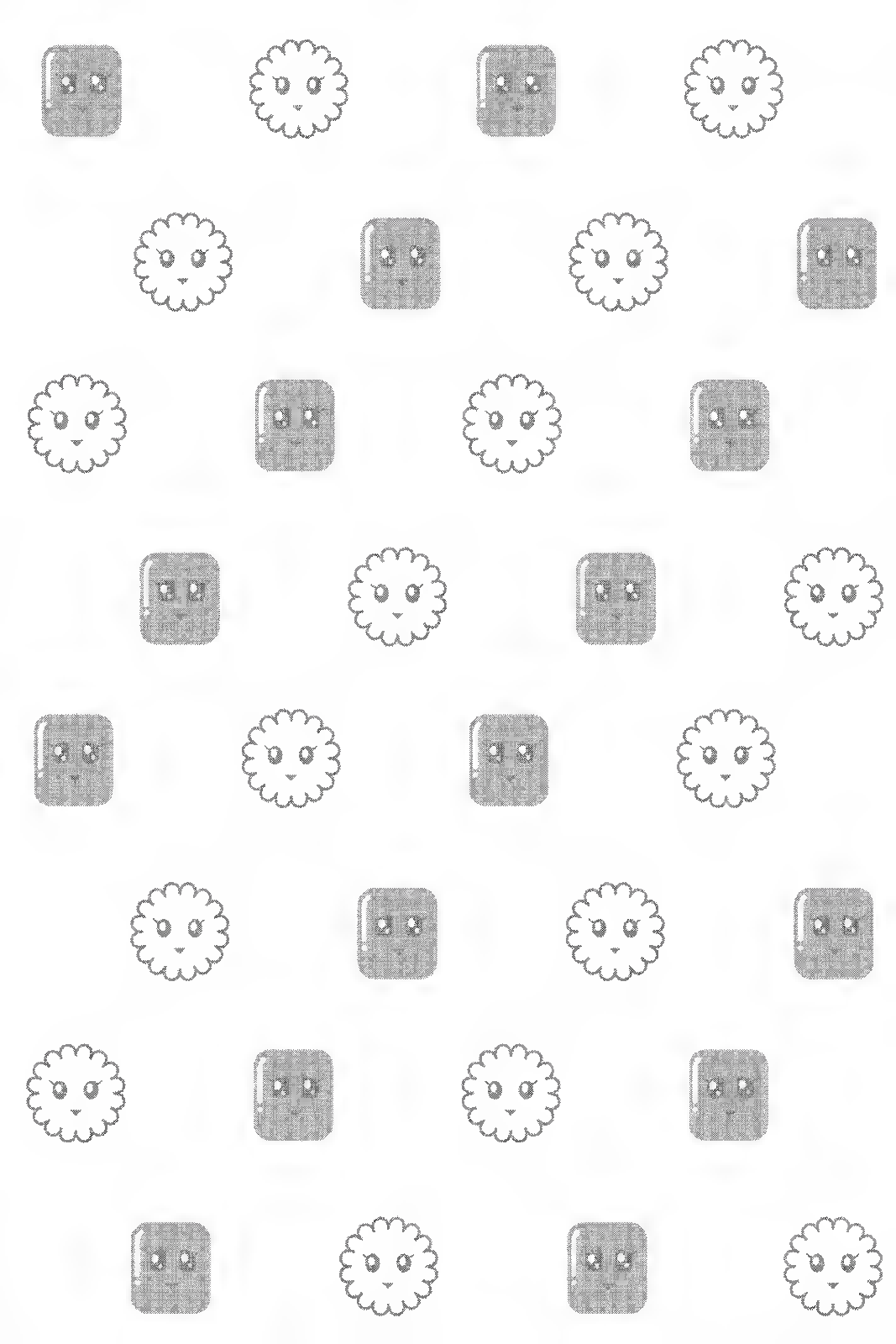
JUST THIS ONCE.
IT'LL BE FINE IF I DO IT THIS ONE TIME JUST TO SEE HOW IT IS, RIGHT?

WHOA!
JUST FEEL THOSE MUSCLES!
BUT HE'S SO GENTLE!
HUH?!
WHOA!
HUUUUH?!
HUUUUUUH?!
AHHH!!!
I, YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT RINKO KAMATA ...
IN MY 33RD YEAR ...
...FIRST LEARNED THE JOYS OF BEING A WOMAN...
SLUMP
WANT A BEER?

OH...
WELL...
IT WAS JUST SO INCRED-IBLE...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HA HA!
BLUSH
THANK YOU...SO MUCH...
NO...
OH ...
CREAK
SORRY.
ARE YOU TIRED?
I'M GLAD YOU EN-JOYED IT.
THANK YOU TOO, RINKO.
PAT なでなで PAT
IT WAS WONDER-FUL.
I MEAN IT.

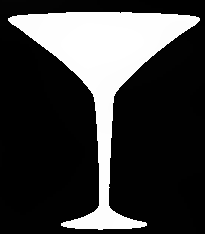
SAY...
RINKO...
HMM?
YOU'VE GOT PRETTY HAIR, DON'T YOU?
HUH?
HEHE-HEH.


WHY DON'T YOU DO YOUR HAIR LIKE THAT ACTRESS'S?
GET IT PERMED AND EVERY-THING.
I WILL BE HAPPY.
FOR SURE.
GREEN
Beer



TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS
(SIDE STORY)

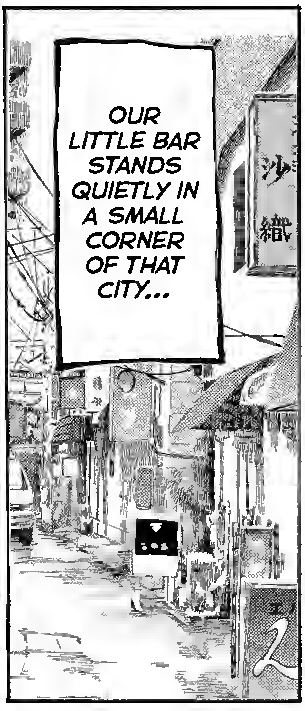
Tarare-Bar



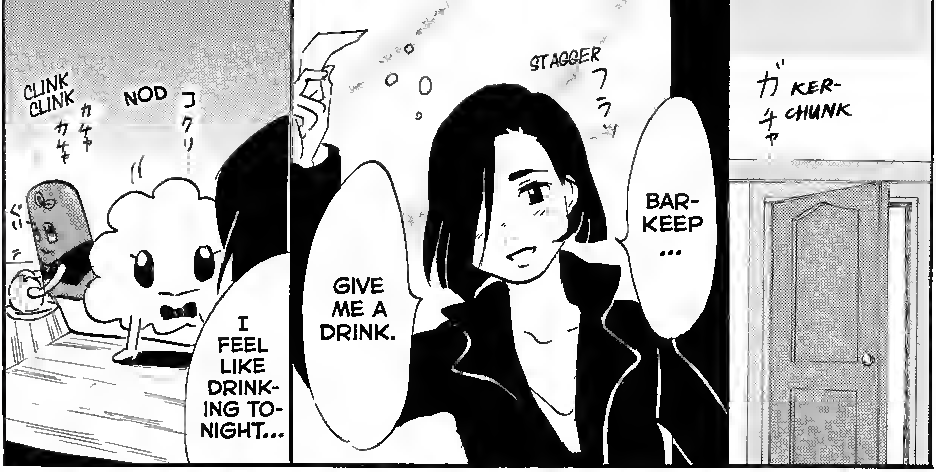
IN THE FOLLOWING SIDE STORY, "TARARE-BAR," WE PUBLISH PROBLEMS SUBMITTED BY READERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

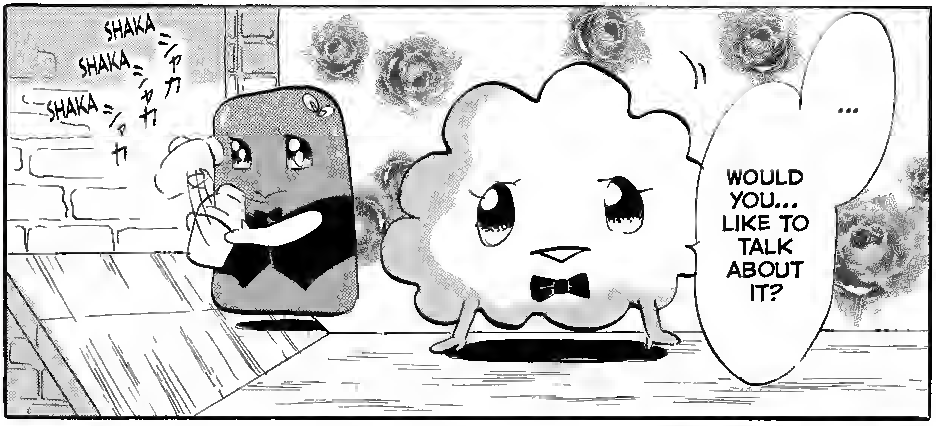
★ NIGHT 1 ★

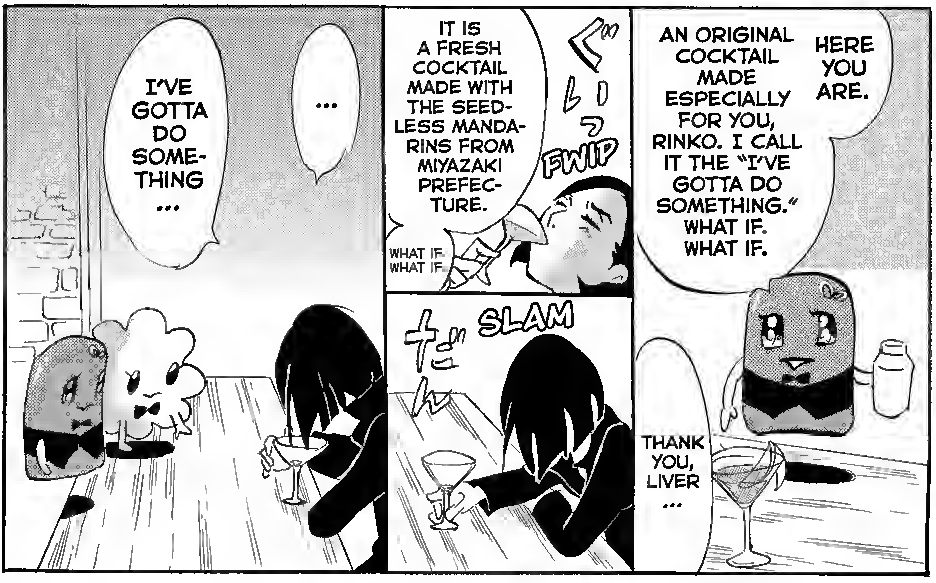
HERE ...
LONELY WOMEN COME AND DRINK THEIR LONELY DRINKS IN A LONELY FASHION...
LOOK, THIS BAR IS REALLY LONELY.


OUR LITTLE BAR STANDS QUIETLY IN A SMALL CORNER OF THAT CITY...

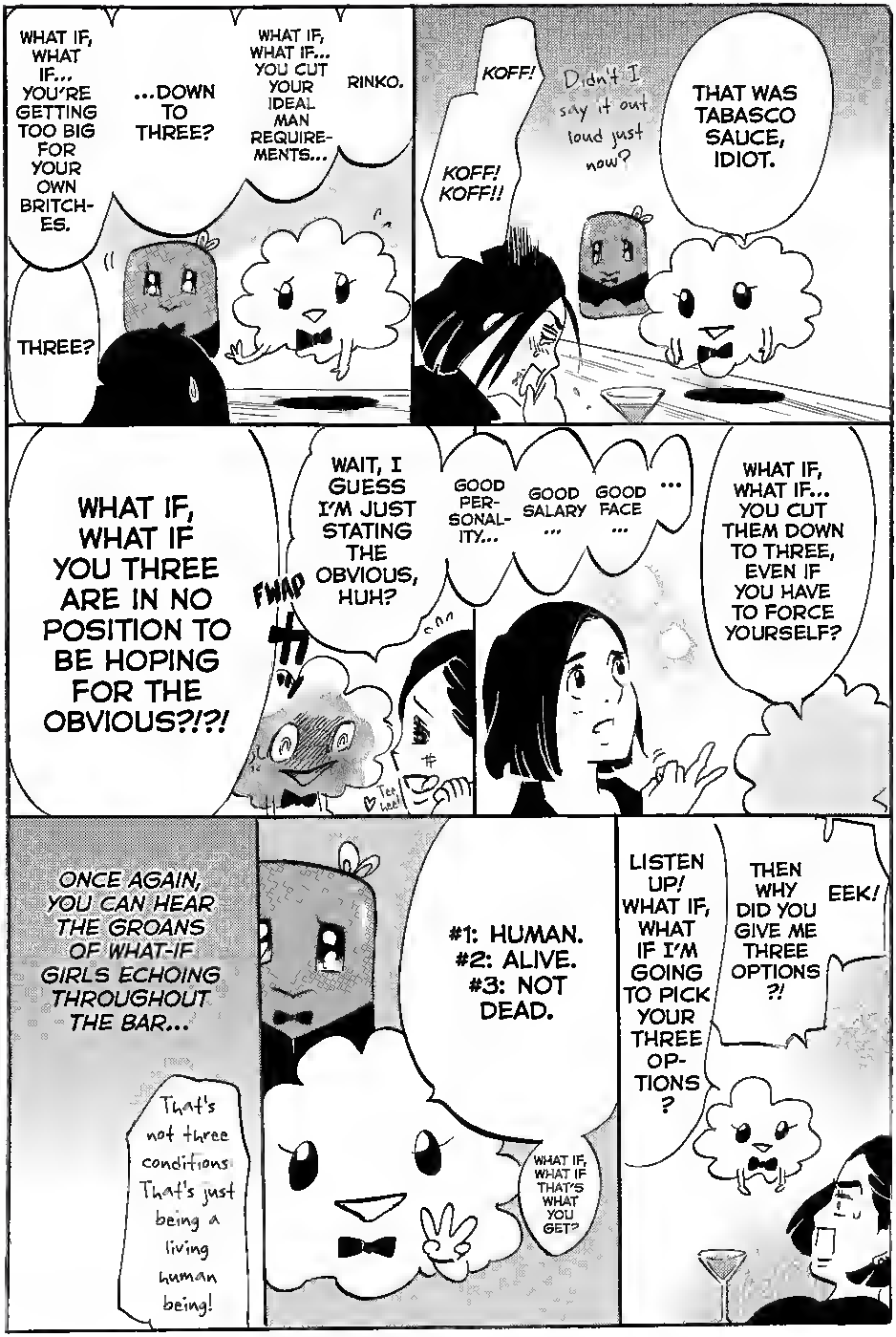
THE SLEEP-LESS CITY TOKYO...

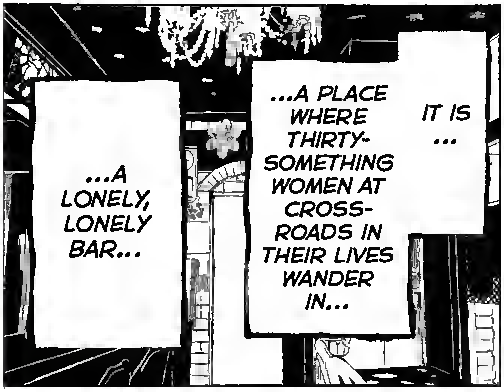

CLINK CLINK
NOD
I FEEL LIKE DRINK-ING TO-NIGHT...
GIVE ME A DRINK.
STAGGER
BAR-KEEP ...
KER-CHUNK

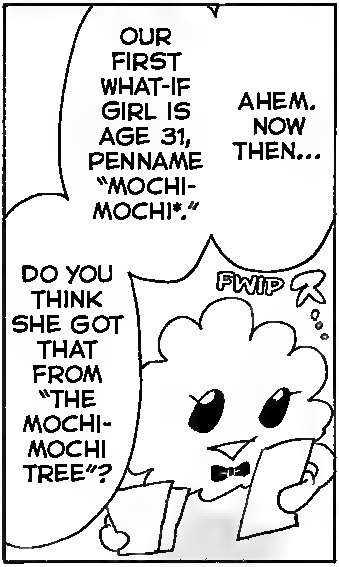

SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
...
WOULD YOU... LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT?

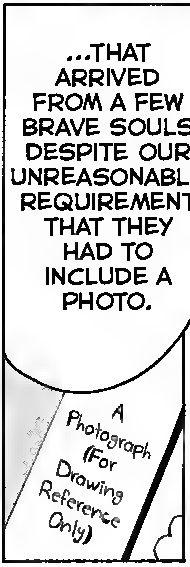

I'VE GOTTA DO SOME-THING ...
...
IT IS A FRESH COCKTAIL MADE WITH THE SEED-LESS MANDA-RINS FROM MIYAZAKI PREFEC-TURE.
FWIP
WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
SLAM
AN ORIGINAL COCKTAIL MADE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, RINKO. I CALL IT THE "I'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING." WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
HERE YOU ARE.
THANK YOU, LIVER ...

WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU DESCRIBED WHAT KIND OF MAN YOU COULD SEE YOURSELF MARRYING?
MY IDEAL MAN?
LOOK, RINKO.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR IDEAL MAN?
ABOUT THIS SITUA-TION.
ABOUT THIS.
I'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING...
SHAKA SHAKA
HE'D HAVE TO HAVE JUST MY TYPE OF FACE, WITH A GREAT PERSONALITY. HE WON'T CHEAT ON ME AND HE'S CONFIDENTLY MASCULINE, BUT DOESN'T LOOK DOWN ON WOMEN. HE HAS A REAL WORTHWHILE JOB WITH A GOOD SALARY, BUT THAT STILL LETS HIM SPEND TIME WITH ME. NO FIRSTBORN SONS. MUST LIKE KIDS. MUST HELP OUT AROUND THE HOUSE AND BE TALL...? I GUESS?
TABASCO. LIVER.
COM-ING RIGHT UP.
BMPH!
GULP
HERE IS ANOTHER ORIGINAL COCKTAIL JUST FOR YOU, RINKO. WE CALL IT THE "PAS-SIONATE RED HEART." WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
SPLORT
FWIP


WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU'RE GETTING TOO BIG FOR YOUR OWN BRITCHES.
THREE?
...DOWN TO THREE?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU CUT YOUR IDEAL MAN REQUIREMENTS...
RINKO.
KOFF!
KOFF! KOFF!!
Didn't I say it out loud just now?
THAT WAS TABASCO SAUCE, IDIOT.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF YOU THREE ARE IN NO POSITION TO BE HOPING FOR THE OBVIOUS?!?!
FWAP
WAIT, I GUESS I'M JUST STATING THE OBVIOUS, HUH?
GOOD PERSONALITY...
GOOD SALARY ...
GOOD FACE ...
...
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU CUT THEM DOWN TO THREE, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF?
ONCE AGAIN, YOU CAN HEAR THE GROANS OF WHAT-IF GIRLS ECHOING THROUGHOUT THE BAR...
That's not three conditions. That's just being a living human being!
#1: HUMAN. #2: ALIVE. #3: NOT DEAD.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU GET?
LISTEN UP! WHAT IF, WHAT IF I'M GOING TO PICK YOUR THREE OPTIONS?
THEN WHY DID YOU GIVE ME THREE OPTIONS?!
EEK!

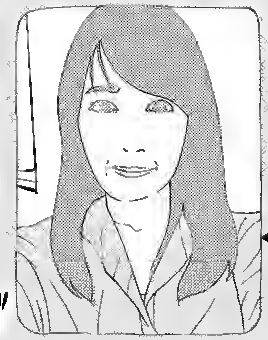





...THAT ARRIVED FROM A FEW BRAVE SOULS DESPITE OUR UNREASONABLE REQUIREMENT THAT THEY HAD TO INCLUDE A PHOTO.
A Photograph (For Drawing Reference Only)

*THE MOCHI-MOCHI TREE IS A CHILDREN'S BOOK RELEASED IN 1971.

I TOTALLY JUST TRACED THE FRIGGIN' PHOTO !!

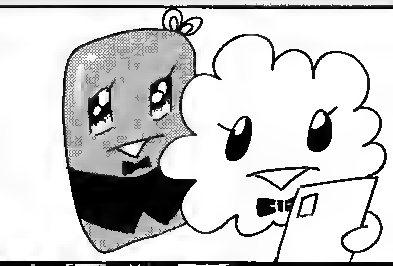


I WANT TO GET MARRIED, BUT THERE ARE NO GOOD MEN AROUND. IF I MARRY SOMEONE I DON'T LOVE, CAN I MAKE IT WORK?

WHEN I READ TARAREBA GIRLS, IT MAKES ME THINK I SHOULD "KNOW MY PLACE," BUT HOW MUCH EFFORT SHOULD I PUT IN HERE? "HE DOESN'T MAKE MY HEART MELT, BUT I DO WANT TO TOUCH HIM. AND IT DOESN'T TICK ME OFF BEING AROUND HIM." IS THAT ABOUT THE LEVEL I SHOULD AIM FOR?

(BELOW, DETAILS AND SUCH)

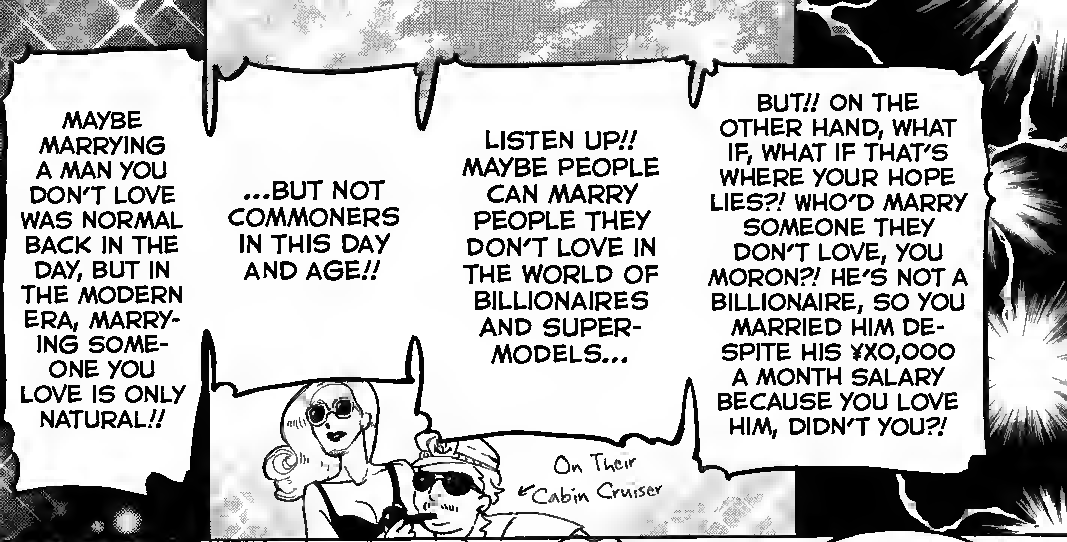
LAST YEAR AFTER I REALIZED, "OH CRAP, I'M THIRTY," I STARTED PUTTING MORE EFFORT INTO FINDING A HUSBAND. I STARTED GOING TO PARTIES, HAVING PEOPLE INTRODUCE ME TO ELIGIBLE BACHELORS, AND EVEN WENT TO SOME MATCHMAKING AGENCIES. I MET MORE THAN FORTY MEN, BUT NOT ONE OF THEM WAS SOMEONE I COULD LOVE. SO I FIGURED I WOULD GIVE UP ON MARRYING SOMEONE I LOVE, AND JUST STARTED DATING SOMEONE I DIDN'T REALLY LOVE BUT WHO SEEMED TO HAVE A GOOD PERSONALITY. HE'S ONE OF THOSE S.T.E.M. BOYS WHO GRADUATED FROM A FAMOUS COLLEGE AND WORKS FOR A MAJOR COMPANY. AFTER WE STARTED DATING, I FOUND OUT HE'S GOT POOR COMMUNICATION SKILLS WITH HIS FRIENDS AND IS A BIT OF A MISOGYNIST (HATES WHEN A WOMAN MAKES MORE THAN HIM, WANTS ME TO HANDLE ALL THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES), SO WE GOT INTO A BIG FIGHT AND I BRO[illegible] HIM

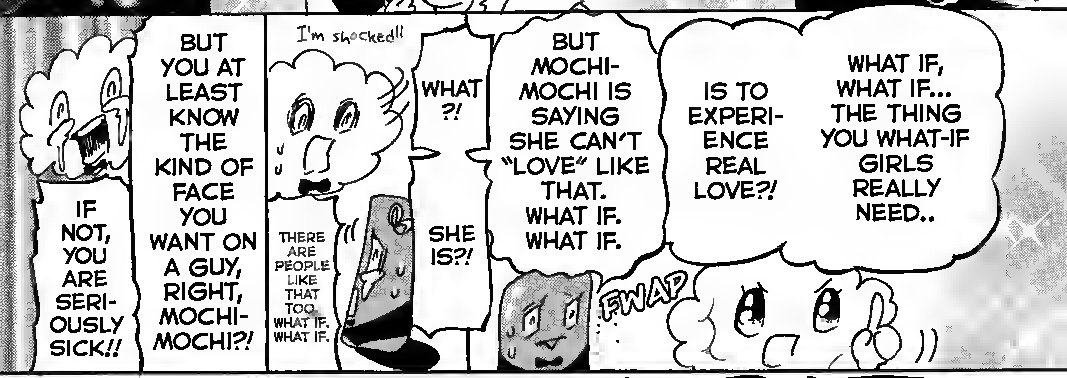


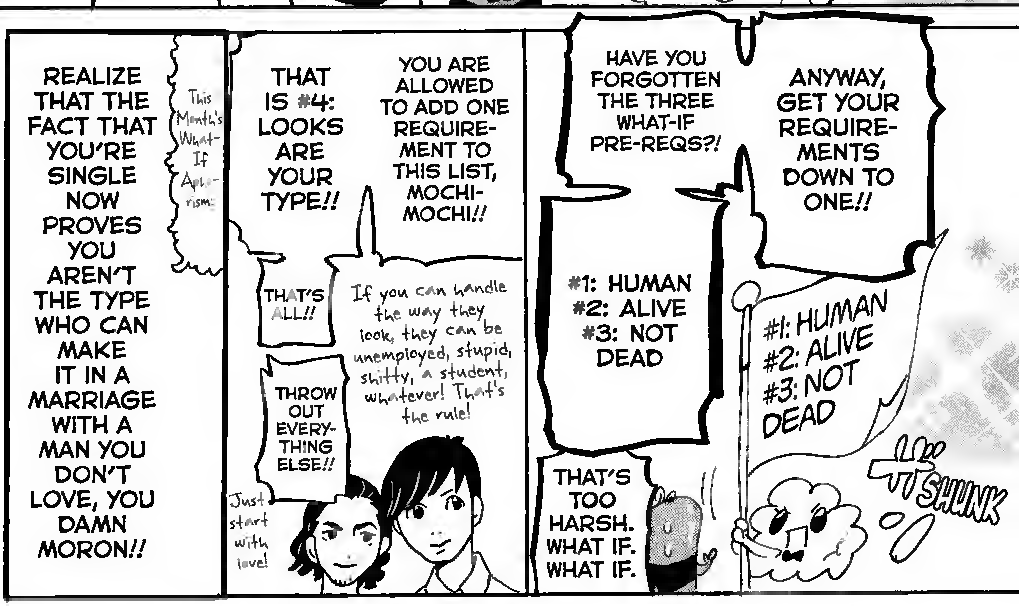
I WAS HOPING WE COULD START WITH SOMETHING LIGHTER, BUT THE WHAT-IF GIRLS OF THE COUNTRY DIDN'T ALLOW IT. WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF WE MUST OFFER SOME SERIOUS ADVICE?
BUT... WHAT IF, WHAT IF THAT DID DEMONSTRATE JUST HOW SERIOUS THE SITUATION IS?
SHAKE
SHAKE

AND THAT QUESTION WAS SO SERIOUS IT SURPASSED OUR EXPECTATIONS. WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
SHAKE SHAKE
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... READING ALL THAT MADE MY EYES TIRED!

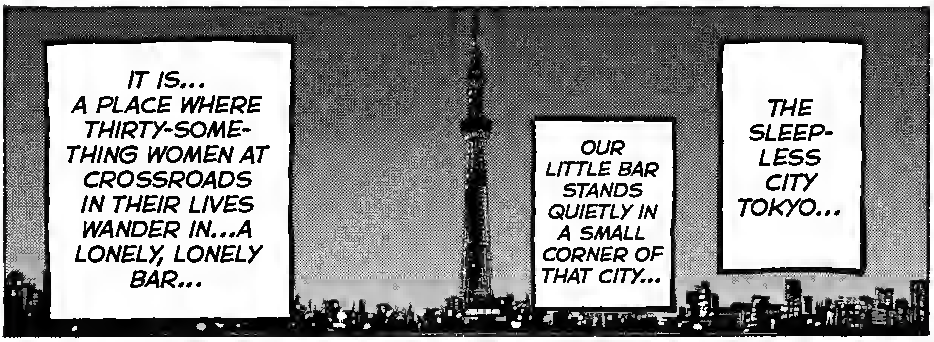
This is no time to be reading The Mochi-Mochi Tree!!
SHOULDN'T YOU KNOW THAT YOURSELF BY NOW, ALMOST 31-YEAR-OLD MOCHI-MOCHI?!
FLASH
NOOOOOOT!!
I'LL START WITH THE CONCLUSION:
OF COURSE YOU CAN MAKE IT WORK IF YOU MARRY SOMEONE YOU DON'T LOVE.
LISTEN UP!!
MARRIED WOMEN ARE ALWAYS SAYING ...
I'VE GOT NO LOVE FOR MY HUSBAND ANYMORE. IN FACT, I DIDN'T LOVE HIM THAT MUCH IN THE FIRST PLACE... BUT HE'S GOT A STEADY JOB, SO I THINK I'LL MAKE DO WITH THAT.
BUT IT'S OKAY. RIGHT NOW, I'M OBSESSED WITH "ARASHI."
Says it all the damn time.
HEH HEH HEH
DON'T TELL ME YOU TOOK THAT CRAP SERIOUSLY ?!
LISTEN TO ME!! IN THEIR HEARTS, THEY FEEL SORRY FOR YOU AND ARE JUST ITCHING TO GIVE YOU A PIECE OF THEIR MIND!!
WHEN THEY SAY "I DIDN'T LOVE HIM BUT I MARRIED HIM ANYWAY," WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN IS...!!
"LOWER YOUR STANDARDS AND DEAL WITH A MAN ABOUT YOUR LEVEL!! YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER!!"
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU GET IT NOW, YOU MORON ?!
Did you think Akiko Higashimura was gonna draw you nice and cute? Well, we let her assistant OOOO trace you instead!! Ahahahaha!
SHAA SHAA

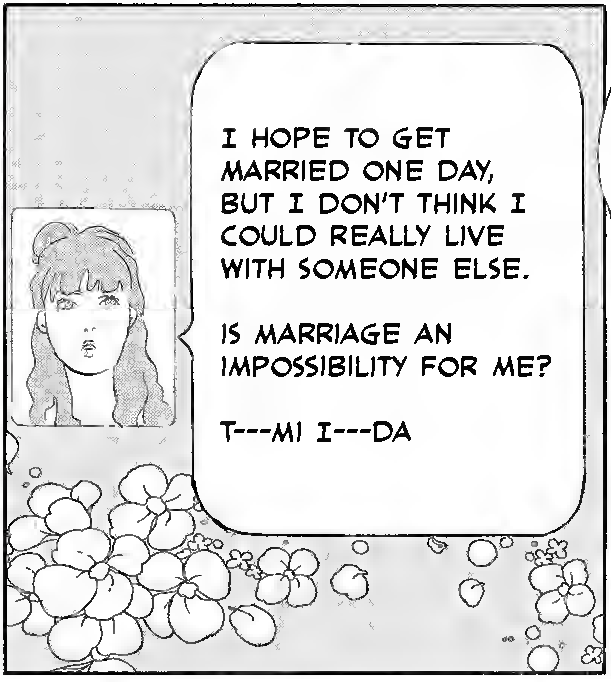

MAYBE MARRYING A MAN YOU DON'T LOVE WAS NORMAL BACK IN THE DAY, BUT IN THE MODERN ERA, MARRYING SOMEONE YOU LOVE IS ONLY NATURAL!!
...BUT NOT COMMONERS IN THIS DAY AND AGE!!
LISTEN UP!! MAYBE PEOPLE CAN MARRY PEOPLE THEY DON'T LOVE IN THE WORLD OF BILLIONAIRES AND SUPERMODELS...
BUT!! ON THE OTHER HAND, WHAT IF, WHAT IF THAT'S WHERE YOUR HOPE LIES?! WHO'D MARRY SOMEONE THEY DON'T LOVE, YOU MORON?! HE'S NOT A BILLIONAIRE, SO YOU MARRIED HIM DESPITE HIS ¥XO,OOO A MONTH SALARY BECAUSE YOU LOVE HIM, DIDN'T YOU?!
On Their Cabin Cruiser

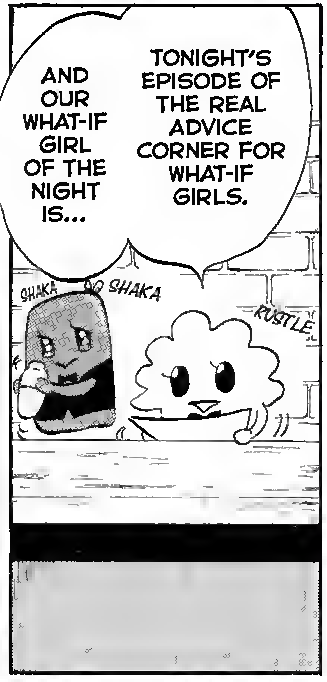

IF NOT, YOU ARE SERIOUSLY SICK!!
BUT YOU AT LEAST KNOW THE KIND OF FACE YOU WANT ON A GUY, RIGHT, MOCHI-MOCHI?!
I'm shocked!!
THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT TOO. WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
WHAT?!
SHE IS?!
BUT MOCHI-MOCHI IS SAYING SHE CAN'T "LOVE" LIKE THAT. WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
IS TO EXPERIENCE REAL LOVE?!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... THE THING YOU WHAT-IF GIRLS REALLY NEED..
FWAP

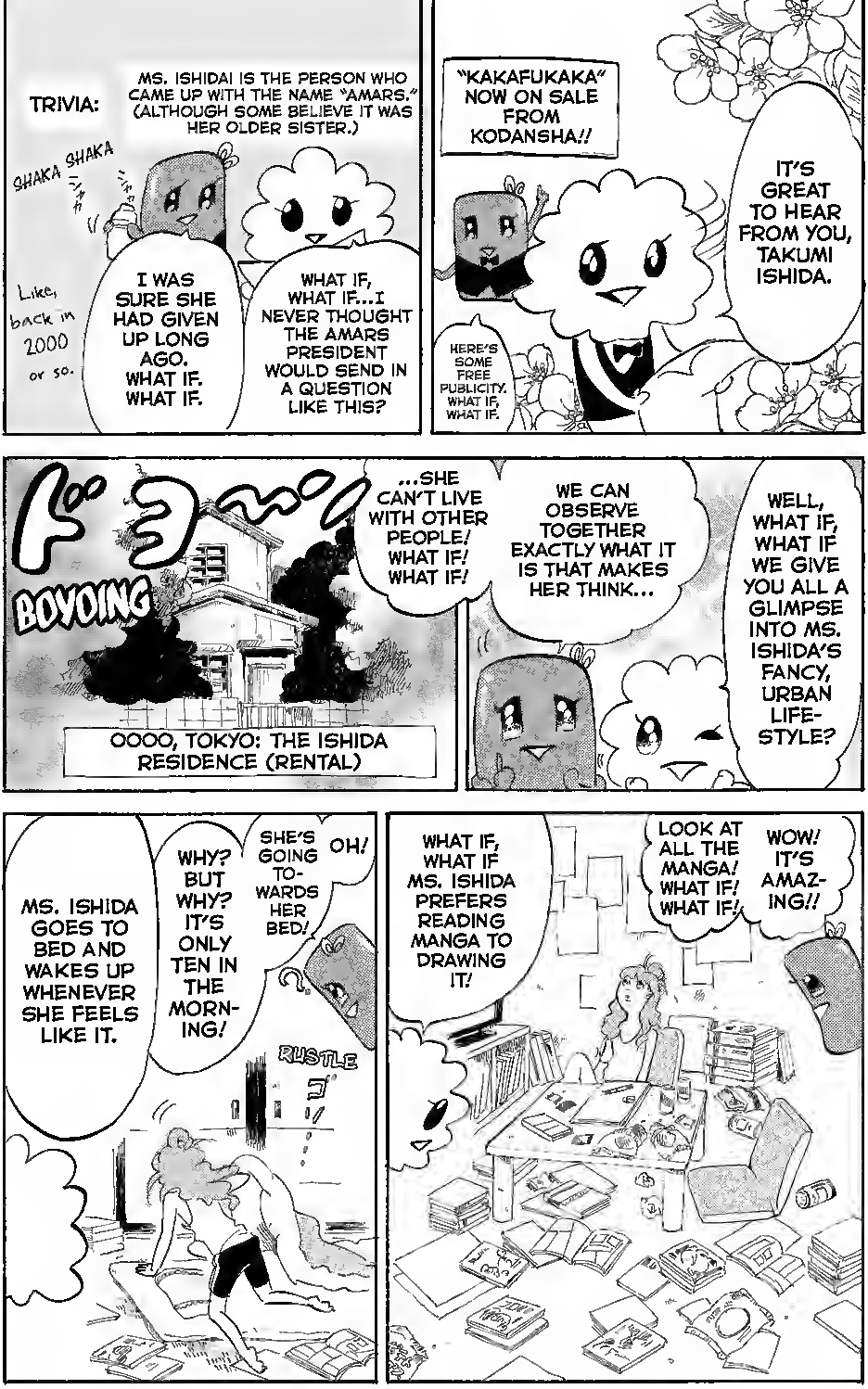

REALIZE THAT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE SINGLE NOW PROVES YOU AREN'T THE TYPE WHO CAN MAKE IT IN A MARRIAGE WITH A MAN YOU DON'T LOVE, YOU DAMN MORON!!
This Month's What-If Aphorism:
THAT IS #4: LOOKS ARE YOUR TYPE!!
YOU ARE ALLOWED TO ADD ONE REQUIREMENT TO THIS LIST, MOCHI-MOCHI!!
THAT'S ALL!!
If you can handle the way they look, they can be unemployed, stupid, shitty, a student, whatever! That's the rule!
THROW OUT EVERYTHING ELSE!!
Just start with love!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE THREE WHAT-IF PRE-REQS?!
#1: HUMAN
#2: ALIVE
#3: NOT DEAD
THAT'S TOO HARSH. WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
ANYWAY, GET YOUR REQUIREMENTS DOWN TO ONE!!
#1: HUMAN
#2: ALIVE
#3: NOT DEAD
SHUNK

★ NIGHT 3 ★
246
青山通り
413
表参道
413

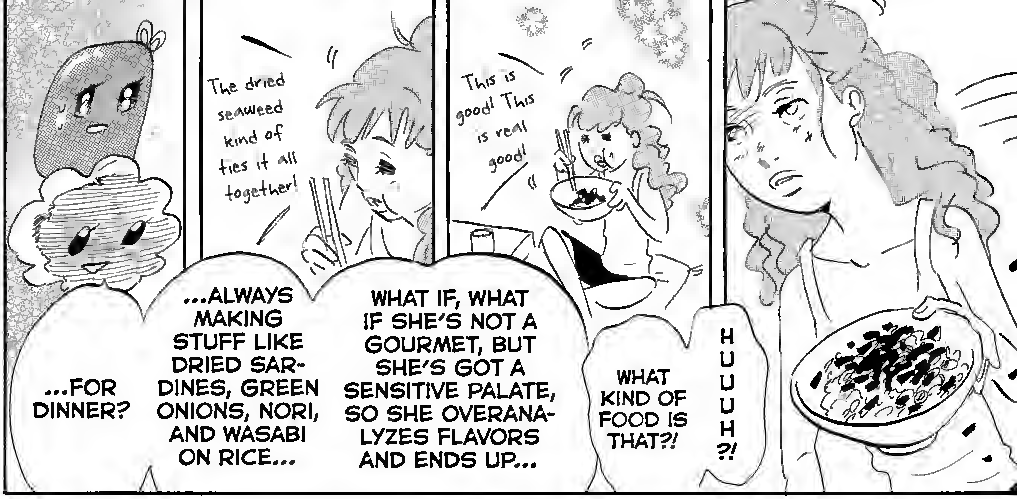

IT IS... A PLACE WHERE THIRTY-SOMETHING WOMEN AT CROSSROADS IN THEIR LIVES WANDER IN...A LONELY, LONELY BAR...
OUR LITTLE BAR STANDS QUIETLY IN A SMALL CORNER OF THAT CITY...
THE SLEEPLESS CITY TOKYO...

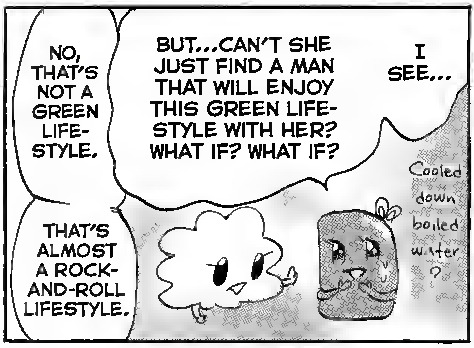

I HOPE TO GET MARRIED ONE DAY, BUT I DON'T THINK I COULD REALLY LIVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
IS MARRIAGE AN IMPOSSIBILITY FOR ME?
T---MI I---DA

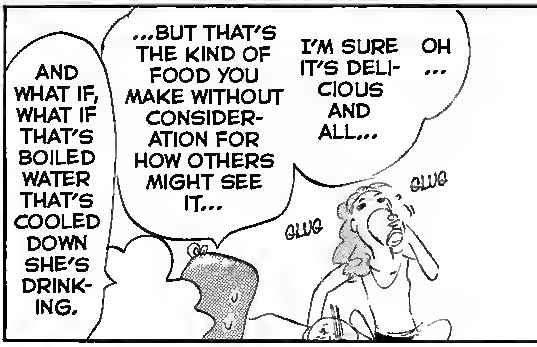

TONIGHT'S EPISODE OF THE REAL ADVICE CORNER FOR WHAT-IF GIRLS.
AND OUR WHAT-IF GIRL OF THE NIGHT IS...
SHAKA
SHAKA
RUSTLE

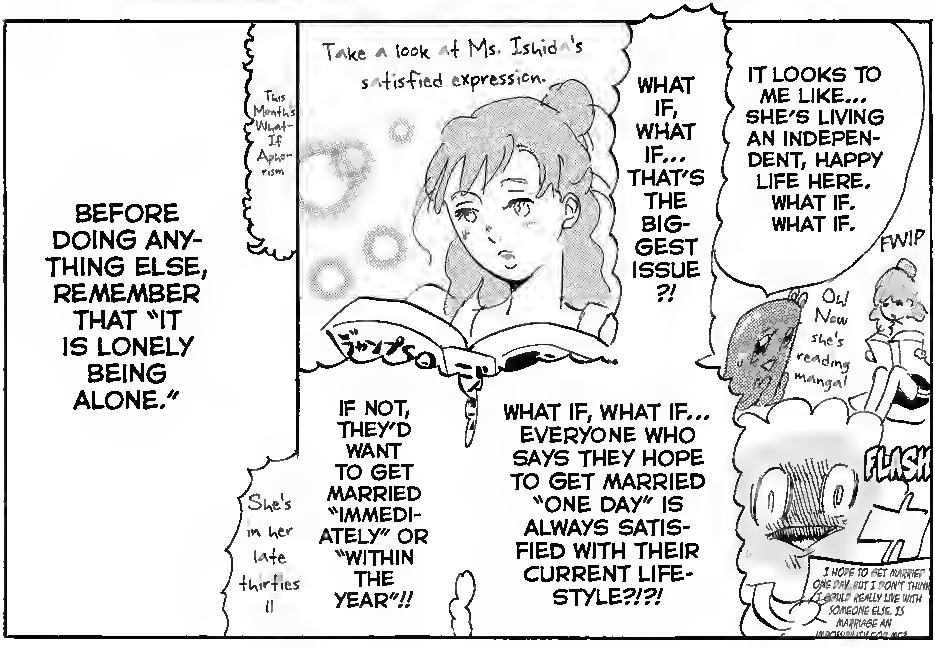

TRIVIA:
MS. ISHIDA! IS THE PERSON WHO CAME UP WITH THE NAME "AMARS." (ALTHOUGH SOME BELIEVE IT WAS HER OLDER SISTER.)
SHAKA SHAKA
Like, back in 2000 or so.
I WAS SURE SHE HAD GIVEN UP LONG AGO. WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...I NEVER THOUGHT THE AMARS PRESIDENT WOULD SEND IN A QUESTION LIKE THIS?
"KAKAFUKAKA" NOW ON SALE FROM KODANSHA!!
IT'S GREAT TO HEAR FROM YOU, TAKUMI ISHIDA.
HERE'S SOME FREE PUBLICITY. WHAT IF, WHAT IF.
BOYOING
OOOO, TOKYO: THE ISHIDA RESIDENCE (RENTAL)
...SHE CAN'T LIVE WITH OTHER PEOPLE! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WE CAN OBSERVE TOGETHER EXACTLY WHAT IT IS THAT MAKES HER THINK...
WELL, WHAT IF, WHAT IF WE GIVE YOU ALL A GLIMPSE INTO MS. ISHIDA'S FANCY, URBAN LIFE-STYLE?
MS. ISHIDA GOES TO BED AND WAKES UP WHENEVER SHE FEELS LIKE IT.
WHY? BUT WHY? IT'S ONLY TEN IN THE MORN-ING!
SHE'S GOING TO-WARDS HER BED!
OH!
RUSTLE
WHAT IF, WHAT IF MS. ISHIDA PREFERS READING MANGA TO DRAWING IT!
LOOK AT ALL THE MANGA! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WOW! IT'S AMAZ-ING!!

...SERIOUSLY?!
RIGHT?
DING-DONG
ピンポーン
ZZZ...
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... IT'S TOO EARLY TO BE SURPRISED YET!
THERE ARE PEOPLE ALIVE IN THIS DAY AND AGE WHO LIVE LIKE ANIMALS?
WHAT?!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
No way!
AND SHE DOESN'T EVEN READ HER TEXTS!!
JING-A-LING
BRRRNG
OH! OR THE PHONE EITHER!
SHE DOESN'T ANSWER!!
HUUUUUUUH?!
Not once she's gone to sleep
WHAT IF, WHAT IF...SHE DOESN'T ANSWER THE DOOR?
AH! SHE'S TAKING INGREDIENTS OUT OF THE FRIDGE!
RUSTLE
OH! SHE WOKE UP!
KEEP WATCHING WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE SOMETHING ELSE INTERESTING?
AND THAT PHONE CALL OR THAT TEXT COULD HAVE BEEN INVITING HER OUT FOR DRINKS WHERE SHE WAS GONNA MEET THE MAN OF HER DREAMS!!
THAT DELIVERY MAN COULD HAVE BEEN HER TYPE! IT COULD HAVE BEEN FATE BRINGING THEM TOGETHER!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
ZZZ...
THANK GOODNESS! MS. ISHIDA CAN COOK! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WHEN SHE GETS MARRIED, SHE CAN COOK DELICIOUS FOOD FOR HER HUSBAND! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
THAT COUNTS FOR A LOT OF POINTS! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
HANG ON. KEEP WATCHING.
THUNK THUNK


...FOR DINNER?
...ALWAYS MAKING STUFF LIKE DRIED SARDINES, GREEN ONIONS, NORI, AND WASABI ON RICE...
WHAT IF, WHAT IF SHE'S NOT A GOURMET, BUT SHE'S GOT A SENSITIVE PALATE, SO SHE OVERANALYZES FLAVORS AND ENDS UP...
The dried seaweed kind of ties it all together!
This is good! This is real good!
WHAT KIND OF FOOD IS THAT?!
HUUUH?!

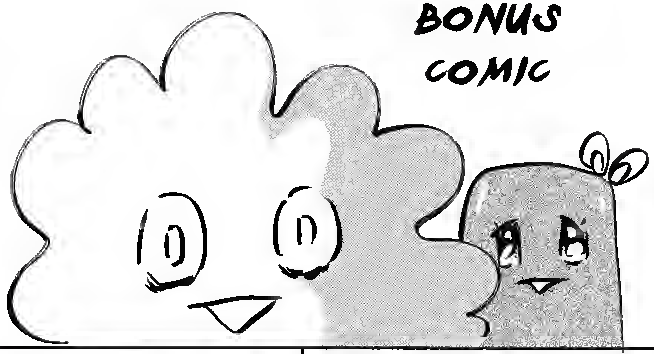

NO, THAT'S NOT A GREEN LIFESTYLE.
BUT...CAN'T SHE JUST FIND A MAN THAT WILL ENJOY THIS GREEN LIFESTYLE WITH HER? WHAT IF? WHAT IF?
I SEE...
THAT'S ALMOST A ROCK-AND-ROLL LIFESTYLE.
Cooled down boiled water?

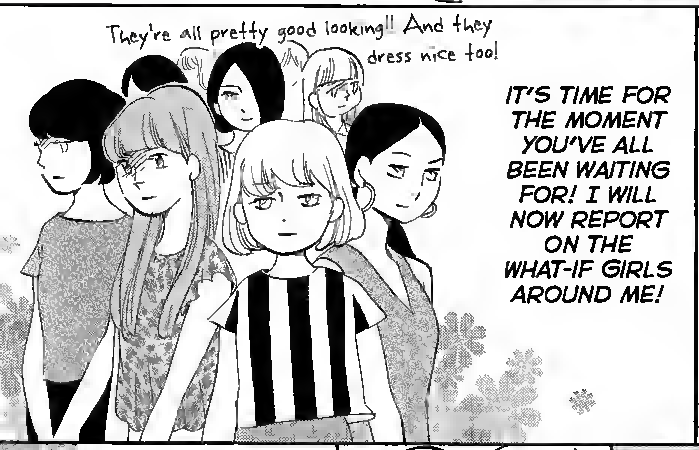

AND WHAT IF, WHAT IF THAT'S BOILED WATER THAT'S COOLED DOWN SHE'S DRINKING.
...BUT THAT'S THE KIND OF FOOD YOU MAKE WITHOUT CONSIDERATION FOR HOW OTHERS MIGHT SEE IT...
I'M SURE IT'S DELICIOUS AND ALL...
OH...
GLUG
GLUG


BEFORE DOING ANYTHING ELSE, REMEMBER THAT "IT IS LONELY BEING ALONE."
This Month's What-If Aphorism
Take a look at Ms. Ishida's satisfied expression.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... THAT'S THE BIGGEST ISSUE?!
IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE... SHE'S LIVING AN INDEPENDENT, HAPPY LIFE HERE. WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
FWIP
Oh! Now she's reading manga!
She's in her late thirties !!
IF NOT, THEY'D WANT TO GET MARRIED "IMMEDIATELY" OR "WITHIN THE YEAR"!!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... EVERYONE WHO SAYS THEY HOPE TO GET MARRIED "ONE DAY" IS ALWAYS SATISFIED WITH THEIR CURRENT LIFESTYLE?!?!
FLUSH
I HOPE TO GET MARRIED ONE DAY, BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL REALLY REALLY LIVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE. IS MARRIAGE AN

WE REVEAL TO YOU

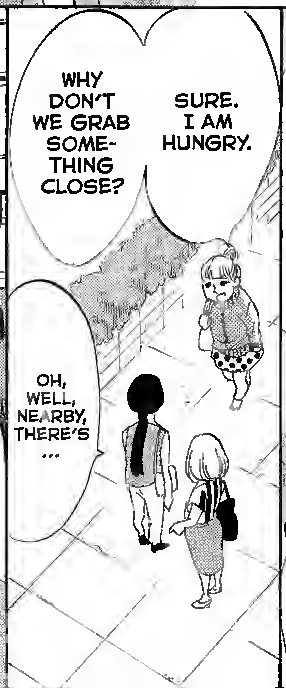
WHAT-IF BONUS COMIC

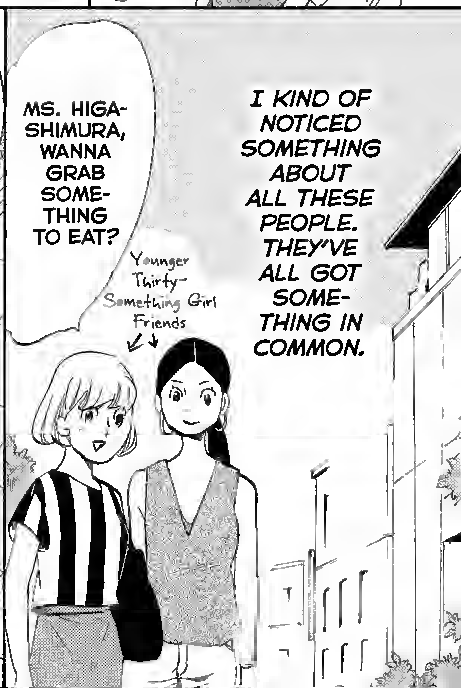




IT'S TIME FOR THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR! I WILL NOW REPORT ON THE WHAT-IF GIRLS AROUND ME!

THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR PURCHASING WHAT-IF VOL. 3. THIS IS HIGASHIMURA SPEAKING.




MS. HIGA-SHIMURA, WANNA GRAB SOME-THING TO EAT?
Younger Thirty-Something Girl Friends
I KIND OF NOTICED SOMETHING ABOUT ALL THESE PEOPLE. THEY'VE ALL GOT SOME-THING IN COMMON.

WHAT ARE YOU HAVING, MS. HIGASHIMURA?
OH! THEY'VE GOT BAGEL SANDWICHES TOO.
OH, I THINK I'LL HAVE THE BACON AND CHEESE GALETTE.
THEY'VE GOT QUICHE TOO!
...
OH, I...
...THINK I'LL JUST HAVE SOME COFFEE ...
...AND GET SOME UDON ON THE WAY HOME.
HUH?!
W-
WHY?
OH, IT'S ALL SO EXPENSIVE...
AND IT'S NOT VERY GOOD EITHER.
IT MAKES ME THINK, "HOW STUPID DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO EAT THIS?"
I MEAN, BY THE TIME YOU ORDER A DRINK AND THIS FOREIGN FOOD, IT COSTS YOU ¥3000.
IF I'M GONNA SPEND ¥3000 ON FOOD, I'D RATHER JUST GET SOME BARBECUE.
HUH? BUT... IT'S FANCY, SO WE THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE IT...
I'm not being stingy. I just like my food to be tasty
And there's nothing to this stuff anyway
WHAP
LOOK ...
IT'S GREAT TO COME TO FANCY PLACES LIKE THIS ON DATES AND STUFF...
...BUT WHEN IT'S JUST US WOMEN, IT'S A WASTE OF MONEY.
THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING.
...

WHAT? BUT YOU COULD MEET SOME REALLY FABULOUS MEN WHO ARE ONLY HERE BECAUSE OF HOW NICE IT IS, RIGHT?!
OH! LOOK! THERE'S ONE NOW!
BECDMING A BETTER WOMAN AND EATING LUNCH AT FANCY RESTAURANTS AREN'T CDNNECTED IN THE SLIGHTEST!!
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
LIKE... IT SEEMS LIKE WE'LL BECOME BETTER WOMEN IF WE EAT AT NICE RESTAURANTS...
BETTERING OURSELVES ...
WE'RE ...
B-BUT...
...AND IN A FEW DAYS YOU WON'T REMEMBER A THING ABOUT TDDAY!! ABDUT THIS GIRLS' LUNCH!
YOU'RE JUST DUMPING ¥3000 WDRTH DF FOOD AND DRINKS DDWN YOUR GULLET ...
THEN THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER!
NOT IN A FANCY PLACE LIKE THIS...
I-I CAN'T DO THAT!
WHAM
HUH ?!
RIGHT NOW.
THEN GO TALK TO HIM.
SO YOU'RE BETTER OFF JUST HANOLING YOUR LUNCH IN TEN MINUTES FOR ¥500 AT HANAMARU UDON...
...ANO EITHER SAVING THE REMAINING ¥2500 FOR YOUR FUTURE...
...OR USING IT TO BUY A SUNSHAOE FOR YOUR MOTHER!!
AS AN APOLOGY FOR MAKING HER WORRY ABOUT HER OAUGHTER WHO'S OVER THIRTY ANO STILL NOT MARRIEO!!
SOB
HERE YOU ARE.
WHAM
WHAM
The mother who works part time selling side dishes at the supermarket

AND THE FACT THAT I DON'T EAT AT CAFES IS FAMOUS AMONG MY LONG-TERM EDITORS.
SO I'M KIND OF VENTING ALL THOSE INTERNAL SCREAMS IN THIS COMIC.
They're all uggos!
Gosh, there are no good men here!
I NEVER CAN SAY IT OUT LOUD...
...I SAY INTERNALLY, BUT WOULDN'T DARE SAY OUT LOUD...
YOU NEED TO THINK A WHOLE LOT OF THINGS OVER!!
GRR!
GRR!
TIMID AROUND OTHER GIRLS
I THINK IT'S PERFECTLY FINE TO GO TO THEM ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS.
LOOK, I'M NOT SAYING THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH FANCY CAFES OR RISTORANTES.
YEP!
WHICHEVER'S CLOSEST FROM HERE!!
No matter how nicely I'm dressed
MS. HIGASHIMURA, YOU PREFER UDON, CONVEYOR SUSHI, OR BARBECUE, RIGHT?
IT'S NOON, SO HOW ABOUT WE POP OUT AND GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT?
BECAUSE YOU'RE PAYING FOR THE ATMOSPHERE.
AND MAYBE YOU COULD GO THERE TO ANNOUNCE TO YOUR GIRLFRIENDS THAT YOU FOUND A MAN.
YOU CAN GO THERE WITH PEOPLE YOU LOVE.
WHAT'S UP WITH JAPAN?
YEAH. PLUS, I REALLY WANNA GET MARRIED, BUT THERE'S NO GOOD MEN AROUND.
AHHH, I REALLY DON'T WANNA GO TO WORK.
IN SHORT, THERE'S NO REASON TO SIT AROUND COMPLAINING LIKE THIS IN FANCY RESTAURANTS!!
END!!

TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS VOLUME 3
TRANSLATION NOTES

ABOUT THE NAME: "TARAREBA" MEANS "WHAT-IF," LIKE THE "WHAT-IF" STORIES YOU TELL YOURSELF ABOUT WHAT ***COULD*** BE OR ***COULD HAVE*** BEEN.

P161.3: ARASHI

A JAPANESE IDOL GROUP FORMED IN LATE 1999 AND STILL ACTIVE TO THIS DAY. MANY OF THEIR SONGS AND ALBUMS HAVE REACHED NUMBER ONE ON THE JAPANESE CHARTS AND THE GROUP HAS WON MANY JAPANESE MUSIC AWARDS.

Tokyo Tarareba Girls 3

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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